PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
12 January 2009—22 January 2009

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 12 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Sale of BNFL Assets

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): Further to the previous Secretary of State's announcement on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS, regarding the planned sale by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) of its one third stake in Atomic Weapons Establishment Management Ltd (AWEML), I can confirm that agreement was reached on 17 December 2008 to sell the one third stake to a UK subsidiary of the Jacobs Engineering Group, subject to clearance under EU merger control requirements. The terms of the deal remain commercially sensitive.

Jacobs is already working as a key strategic partner to AWEML and their acquisition of BNFL's one-third stake followed a competitive process conducted by BNFL in close consultation with the BERR and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). HMG is satisfied that the sale of BNFL's one third stake to Jacobs achieves the dual objective of maximising shareholder return from the stake while ensuring that a strong AWEML consortium is in place under Government owned contractor operated arrangements to manage the enduring performance of AWEML's subsidiary, AWE plc, which is responsible for the day-to-day operation of AWE itself and for meeting the requirements of the customer, the MOD. The MOD is satisfied that Jacobs meets the relevant security requirements.

Strategic requirements and the UK deterrent programme are set by the UK Government. UK nuclear forces will remain fully operationally independent; decision-making and the use of the system remains entirely sovereign to the UK. All AWE sites and assets remain in Government ownership, as they have done since AWE was first contractorised in 1993. The MOD continues to hold a special share in AWE plc, which would allow the MOD to assume control of AWE plc, should that become necessary.

TREASURY

Saving Gateway Accounts Bill

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Today, in advance of the Second Reading of the Saving Gateway Accounts Bill, I am publishing draft regulations in relation to eligibility for Saving Gateway accounts. Copies have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available in the Vote Office and on the HM Treasury website.

HEALTH

Cord Blood Banking

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): As part of a review of the collection and use of umbilical cord blood, the Department commissioned a study of current practice in the United Kingdom compared with that found in Canada, China, France, Japan, Spain and the United States. The study produced a report entitled "Cord Blood Banking in the UK—an international comparison of policy and practice".

The Department is pleased that the study found practice in the UK to be comparable to that elsewhere. Furthermore, we agree there is a need for detailed consideration of the collection and use of cord blood and a joined-up approach to service provision. Along with our partners in other Government bodies and the third sector, we have already started to consider what further needs to be done. This will ensure the UK remains at the forefront of this work and able to meet its international obligations in matching stem cell donations to patients in need of a transplant.

A copy of the report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Answer (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for Birmingham, (Selly Oak) on 16 December, *Official Report*, column 662W, was incorrect. The correct information is as follows:

The Department is a member of the inter-ministerial group on reducing reoffending which meets regularly to monitor the Government's ongoing commitment to equivalence of healthcare for those detained in prison.

We are now committed to progressing a cross-departmental consultation "Improving Health, Supporting Justice". This examines ways that services can be better delivered to people in contact with the police, courts, prison and probation services by mainstreaming their access to health and social care.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Support for Jobseekers

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (James Purnell): The Government are today announcing further measures to strengthen the support we offer to people who have been unemployed for six months. This builds on a number of measures already taken to respond to the consequences of the global economic downturn for employment in this country.

We have already quadrupled the funds available to Jobcentre Plus' rapid response service so that we can provide more comprehensive support to people facing redundancy, for example by providing information on alternative jobs and arranging on-site job fairs.

We have a guaranteed offer available to everyone who claims jobseeker's allowance that they will get advice on finding a new job; help to write a new CV and to fill in job applications; retraining and skills advice; help for those eligible with their rent and with their mortgage from 13 weeks; and access to the thousands of new vacancies received by Jobcentre Plus every working day. After three months of a person's claim they will have a further discussion with a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser where their original jobseeker's agreement is reviewed, and jobsearch is extended to a wider range of vacancies.

The Department for Work and Pensions was also allocated an extra £1.3 billion in last year's pre-Budget report so that Jobcentre Plus and contracted providers could maintain a high level of service for those who find themselves out of work.

These and other measures have helped to ensure that people continue to leave jobseeker's allowance quickly—the great majority within six months of claiming.

The new measures announced today will provide additional help for people who are still unemployed after six months. First, we are enhancing the support offered by Jobcentre Plus advisers. This will mean more time spent between an adviser and an unemployed person reviewing their job search activities and seeing how they can apply more effectively for the vacancies available. Evidence shows that if people continue to be supported and motivated to look for work they will find a job more quickly. From April this year, everyone reaching six months unemployed will benefit from this increased support.

Secondly, we will be making available an expanded range of work and training options that an adviser would be able to offer customers. These will be jobs supported by recruitment subsidies, support to start a business, work-related training and voluntary work opportunities.

Eligible customers would attract a subsidy typically worth £2,500—comprising a £1,000 recruitment or self-employment subsidy and Train to Gain funding worth on average £1,500. The recruitment subsidy of £1,000 will be offered to employers who are committed to working with us to recruit jobless people through Local Employment Partnerships. In England, as well as the recruitment subsidy the employer will also be able to access Train to Gain funding of up to £1,500 to provide training. It will be a targeted subsidy—employers will not be able to claim it by right and we will not make any payments if the employer has dismissed or made redundant any existing employees in order to recruit someone under this option.

We will encourage self-employment by arranging short focused courses and joining up with Business Link in England, working with Business Gateway in Scotland and the Assembly Government's Flexible Support for Business programme in Wales. We will also work with private and voluntary sector providers to give people knowledge and confidence to set up a business. For those who show a real interest in taking this option we will then offer financial support during the first few months while they get their business going.

In order to qualify the individual must have an agreed and signed-off business plan. The subsidy will ease the transition from benefit, help with start-up costs and ensure a level of income in the first few months of trading. We will also explore helping individuals to access loans and wider financial support. Our involvement should not end once the individual signs off benefit, and we will encourage individuals to stay in touch with their personal adviser, with the appropriate business service and also make the most of the Train to Gain and equivalent offers in Scotland and Wales.

For others the best route back into a job will be acquiring economically valuable skills and qualifications through work-focused training. Additional training places will be made available which are flexible enough to enable job search to continue while a person is undertaking the training and to continue where that person finds a job in the middle of the course. Equipping unemployed people with additional skills will enable the UK to capitalise on the job opportunities of the future. This additional support at the six month stage complements the £100 million in additional skills funding previously announced for those affected by redundancy. The devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales also have skills training budgets for the unemployed. We will work with them to co-ordinate provision and maximise access to programmes for Jobcentre Plus customers at the six months stage or earlier for the individual.

Voluntary work can also prove helpful in providing skills and experience which help people take up paid employment. With the help of third sector partners, we will strengthen our existing signposting to suitable opportunities by providing access to volunteering placements. These would be short placements designed to help people learn relevant skills for an area of work they are interested in rather than lengthy spells of full-time activity which could take someone away from the labour market. During a period of volunteering a person would remain on JSA and be subject to conditions attached to the benefit.

These measures build on the policies already in place to ensure that we will not write off a generation by doing nothing while people are worried about losing their job, or finding a new one. We will do everything we can to help people into jobs. The longer a person is out of work the harder we will work to support them.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 13 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate Annual Report 2007-08

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Department for Business has recently published the Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate Annual Report for 2007-08. The report is available on the BERR website at: http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49464.pdf. I have today placed copies of this report in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report sets out the main activities of the EAS during the year, including information about agencies prosecuted for breaches of employment agency legislation and prohibitions of individuals unsuitable to be involved in the running of an employment agency. In 2007-08 two agencies were prosecuted successfully and a total of five individuals were prohibited from running agencies.

In addition, the EAS recovered over £26,000 of workers' wages that had been illegally withheld. In the period since the end of March 2008, the EAS has recovered a further £21,900 for agency workers. The EAS investigated a total of 1,494 agencies during the course of 2007-08.

We have doubled the number of EAS inspectors during 2008. This will enable the EAS to carry out a greater proportion of proactive inspections. Over recent months, we have also started to transform the operations of EAS, through running monthly large-scale, targeted investigations and giving more publicity to the warnings that we issue to non-compliant businesses. And we have launched a significant campaign to raise the profile of EAS, starting with a "Know your Rights" booklet for agency workers (available from the www.direct.gov.uk website).

In addition, changes made in the Employment Act 2008 will—from April this year—enable the most serious criminal offences under the Employment Agencies Act 1973 to be tried in the Crown Court (where the maximum penalty will be an unlimited fine). They will also give EAS inspectors improved investigative powers, including the power to seek financial information about an agency suspected of committing offences from the agency's bank.

The EAS will use its additional resources and powers to ensure that agency workers are fairly treated and to ensure that the law is obeyed.

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance Measure

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Government have become aware of an artificial and aggressive avoidance scheme that seeks to abuse tax reliefs available for employment-related liabilities incurred by employees and former employees.

This scheme relies on the creation of losses through a series of arrangements connecting the individual and a company that provides services to trusts, some of which may be offshore, which are established for the purposes of the scheme.

A loss is created through an intentional act of maladministration by the individual acting as a trustee in the course of a contrived employment. The maladministration triggers a compensation payment payable by that individual. This compensation creates a loss that the individual can set off against other taxable income.

The Government do not accept that these highly contrived arrangements have the effect that is sought, but will remove any doubt by introducing appropriate legislation in the 2009 Finance Bill to prevent tax deductions being allowed where liabilities relating to an employment are incurred by employees and former employees with a main purpose of the avoidance of tax. This legislation will have effect from 12 January 2009.

The legislation will not affect genuine cases where tax avoidance arrangements are not involved and will have no impact on the treatment of normal insurance premiums paid by employers to indemnify employees against employment-related liabilities.

Details of this action are contained in a technical note published on HMRC's website.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Russia/Ukraine Gas Dispute

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Edward Miliband): Yesterday I attended the extraordinary EU Energy Council, called to discuss the dispute over gas supplies between Russia and Ukraine. Ministers discussed the impact of the dispute on member states, the importance of resuming gas supplies to Europe swiftly and the longer-term implications of policy for Europe.

In all, across Europe (European Union and wider), eight countries have declared states of emergency. A further 10 European countries, including Germany, Italy and France, have taken emergency measures. It is clear from the Energy Ministers meeting yesterday that all countries in Europe have an interest in an early resolution of this dispute.

Britain gets less than 2 per cent. of its gas supplies from Russia. UK demand has been met by a number of sources, including from the North sea, imports and storage. However, the Government will continue to be vigilant, working with Ofgem and the National Grid, which is closely monitoring impacts in the gas market.

During the dispute, the gas supply situation in continental Europe has resulted in higher energy prices. However, there has not been a significant impact on wholesale prices in the UK as a result. Furthermore, any short-term movements in wholesale prices would be no excuse for energy companies to delay price cuts, insofar as they buy gas in the forward market and do not therefore have to reflect short term wholesale price movements in their charges to consumers.

European Ministers agreed unanimously that it was totally unacceptable that a commercial dispute between two countries had escalated into something which was now affecting the whole of Europe, and indeed affecting the citizens of some countries very severely, particularly in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Serbia and Moldova.

Since last week, the European Commission and presidency had been working to get both parties to sign up to an agreement to enable transit of gas to Europe to resume. I have made clear the Government's strong support for these efforts.

Both Russia and Ukraine agreed to a solution involving EU monitors to ensure that the levels of gas flowing into and out of Ukraine can be independently verified.

Yesterday, we received assurances from Russian and Ukrainian Ministers present at the meeting that gas would start to flow today. In their interests as well as those of Europe, they need, without further delay, to ensure gas does flow and resolve their differences.

The Energy Council also discussed the longer-term implications of this dispute. Energy security remains primarily a matter for member states and the clear lesson from this situation is that member states need diversity in their supplies of gas and diversity in their energy mix more generally.

It is also clear, and this is reflected in the Council conclusions (attached), that Europe can also play an important role in ensuring the energy security of its member states. This was the rationale for the European Commission's strategic energy review, published late last year.

It is also a key part of the case for early and rigorous implementation of the third package on the EU's internal energy market. These measures will make Europe's gas markets function more effectively and strengthen our resilience to shocks.

As I made clear at the meeting, our priorities in the forthcoming debates will be:

encouraging greater investment in diversification of supply routes, including developing the southern corridor for gas supplies from central Asia;

making urgent progress towards ensuring greater interconnection between countries and;

ensuring improved response mechanisms for situations such as these.

The Council agreed that urgent work would be done on these issues for concrete action to be agreed at the spring European Council.

This dispute reminds us of the geo-political nature of energy supplies and the need for Europe to act strategically, but above all, Ministers agreed it was essential to send a united message to Russia and Ukraine about their responsibilities.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council met on 16 and 17 December. The Health and Consumer Affairs part of the Council was taken on 16 December. I represented the UK.

At the meeting, the Council adopted conclusions on the French presidency themes of health security on public health strategies to combat neurodegenerative diseases associated with ageing and in particular Alzheimer's disease. The United Kingdom supported the adoption of these conclusions.

The presidency provided a progress report on the proposal for a directive on cross-border healthcare, which was followed by a debate between member states on the directive. The UK intervened to highlight broad support for direction of discussions, which had taken place under the French presidency and the need to continue to work closely to address our concerns. There was a presentation by the European Commission on the recently published proposal for a Council recommendation on European actions in the field of rare diseases, followed by a brief discussion. The UK expressed broad support for the recommendation, but noted it was important that the recommendation ensured the right balance between EU action to promote co-operative action between member states and respect for member state competence for the management and organisation of their healthcare systems.

Over lunch, there was a presentation from the Commission on the work of the Council High-level Working Group on Public Health and a discussion on forthcoming elections of the World Health Organisation regional director post.

Under any other business, the presidency and the Commission provided information on a range of issues including the recently published pharmaceutical package and green paper on healthcare professionals. The incoming Czech presidency provided information on their priorities for health, which they intend to take forward under their presidency.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Entry Clearance Refusals

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I have today placed in the Library a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal, covering the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008. A copy is also being made available on the UKBA website at:

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk/en/independentmonitor/imparliamentaryreports together with UK Border Agency's response to the Independent Monitor's recommendations.

I am most grateful to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for this positive report based on the 860 sample cases which she has reviewed for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 March 2008, and the 445 cases reviewed during her monitoring visits to visa issuing posts during the period April to September 2008.

In the report Mrs. Costelloe Baker comments that of the file sample analysed this year, 85.6 per cent. of the cases were reasonable and had the correct information on appeal rights an improvement on 83.7 per cent. for the previous report covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2007; and that 91.2 per cent. of decisions were reasonable, an improvement on 91 per cent. for the last report.

She notes a big improvement in evidence based decision making "There has been a marked improvement in the way entry clearance officers handle evidence. In this sample, 98 per cent. of the refusal notices contained applicant specific evidence..."

She further notes that "[the] Overall appearance [of Refusal Notices] has improved tremendously. Most Refusal Notices now look neat and tidy and few have typing or spelling errors...I am pleased to report almost no ridiculous reasons [for refusal]..."

Mrs. Costelloe Baker also makes a number of constructive recommendations as to how UK Border Agency can continue to improve the quality of decision-making, guidance to entry clearance staff, and correspondence and complaint handling. UK Border Agency welcomes these comments and is keen to use these recommendations to drive up the quality of its service to customers whilst maintaining a high level of immigration control.

I wish to record our thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for the work and effort she has put into producing this her third report as Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal. The Independent Monitor's next report will cover the period 1 April to 30 September 2008 and will be published in the first half of 2009.

CABINET OFFICE

New Opportunities

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today laying before the House a White Paper "New Opportunities" which sets out a strategy for investing in Britain's aspiration and ambition for years to come.

The global economy of the 21st century brings new opportunities and new risks. The way the financial crisis has swept across every economy in just a few months underlines how interconnected our world has become. But beyond today's global slowdown lies a world of new opportunities for which we must prepare. If we put in place the right foundations now, the price is not just a richer country but also a fairer society.

Alongside real help now for families and businesses, we will therefore invest today in Britain's future. Over the next two years we will provide record investment in Britain's public services in families, communities and every stage of a citizen's life. In this way we will ensure that Britain's future performance matches our future potential, and that accident of birth and social background do not hold people back. These two elements together, better jobs and fairer chances, will together produce a more upwardly mobile society.

We build on strong foundations. Over the last decade, provision for pre-school children has been transformed with increased resources and free places for all three and four year olds. Nearly 3,000 children centres are in place. Since 1997 school funding per pupil has doubled in real terms, 600,000 children have been lifted out of poverty, the number of apprenticeships has more than tripled, and almost 300,000 more students are benefiting from higher education.

But we believe there is more to do to enable everyone, whatever their background, to fulfil their talents and potential. To prepare our country today for the opportunities of tomorrow, and supported by the record investment of the next two years, the "New Opportunities" White Paper outlines a number of new key measures:

The extension of free childcare to 15 per cent. of the most disadvantaged two-year-olds spread across every local authority in England: This will reach around 23,000 children per year, in addition to existing provision, and cost £57 million in total. They will provide 10 hours of care per week to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds in the best quality settings for at least 38 weeks a year. Once the child turns three, they will then automatically be entitled to 15 hours of care per week.

A back to work entitlement of up to £500: Trial a back to work entitlement of up to £500 for those who have been carers for at least five years, including parents, to reward their contribution and support their return into the labour market.

The introduction of a new £10,000 incentive to encourage more of the most effective teachers to teach in the most challenging schools: The incentive will be payable in return for three years' service in a single participating school. This package could reach more than 500 schools and up to 6,000 teachers per year. We will work with partners to ensure that this package is taken up by schools, works effectively to attract more of the best teachers, represents good value for money, and to ensure that we set in place the right long-term total reward for teachers who choose to work in the most challenging schools.

The introduction of a guarantee for high potential young people from low-income backgrounds to get the support they need to get into university: We will continue to target existing resources within Aimhigher, Aimhigher Associates and other funds so that more pupils from low-income backgrounds receive a package of structured assistance across their time at secondary school. And to make sure that this targeting is successful, we will guarantee that it ensures that those pupils from low-income backgrounds who are roughly in the top 50 per cent. of performers, wherever they are located, have access to a comprehensive package of assistance to attend university

A support programme for children leaving care: Fund the National Care Advisory Service (NCAS) for the next two years to work with local authorities to develop and test models of support for care leavers into employment. NCAS will work with nine LAs in year one, with a view to extending support to half of all local authorities in year two, as the first phased step of a national roll-out. As part of this policy, the National Apprenticeship Service will work with NCAS to ensure that from September 2009 all suitably qualified care leavers will be offered an apprenticeship place and intend to make this a legal entitlement from 2013.

The creation of 35,000 new apprenticeship places across the public and private sector to help individuals and businesses through the downturn: This will bring the total number of apprentices to well over a quarter of a million for the first time ever. We are expanding apprenticeship places and are legislating so that all suitably qualified young people will have a right to an apprenticeship by 2013. By this stage there will also be an equivalent commitment to a diploma for all learners that want one.

A tripling of professional and career development loans available from 15,000 to 45,000 over the next three years: Career development loans will be renamed professional and career development loans and tripled. As with existing loans they will be offered interest free while people study. We will also make them more attractive by:

Reducing the headline interest rates

By allowing people to apply for greater value loans to study at colleges, universities and private training providers

A fair access to the professions panel: We will establish a high level panel of the major professions which will work closely with the professions to identify barriers to access and propose concrete actions to address them.

A new full-time structured vocational volunteering programme is being created, with places reserved for those not in education, employment or training: We are supporting the charity to deliver volunteering opportunities that offer a clear route to gaining skills and employment. The 33 local authorities that have been selected to deliver this full-time programme will deliver 30 placements.

With the right policies, we can both raise the overall level skills, incomes and the number of good jobs, whilst at the same time building a fair society.

Copies of the "New Opportunities" White Paper have been placed in the Library.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Serious Fraud Office

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following written ministerial statement:

"Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £15.45 million will be sought in the spring supplementary estimate for the Serious Fraud Office. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £10 million will be met by repayable cash advances from the Contingencies Fund".

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 14 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Government Financial Help (Business)

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has made the following statement:

In the pre-Budget report on 24 November 2008, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a package of Government support for small and medium-sized businesses to help them through the current economic difficulties.

Since then the Government have been working alongside the banks, business organisations and financial organisations to ensure that we speedily transform this announcement into real help for business.

I am pleased to announce that as part of the Government's "Real Help" campaign, businesses can now access the full range of support, providing up to £21 billion worth of real help to business.

The Real Help with Finance package will provide:

Up to £1.3 billion of additional lending to smaller businesses through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee. This 75 per cent. guarantee will support bank lending to businesses of less than £25 million turnover who are otherwise credit worthy but are facing problems in accessing working capital because of economic conditions;

up to £10 billion Working Capital Guarantee, which by guaranteeing up to 50 per cent. of a portfolio of loans will support bank lending of up to £20 billion. Banks have been invited to submit their portfolios of loans for approval. The first £1 billion guarantee tranche should be operational by 1 March, supporting around £2 billion of loans. Use of this facility will of course be subject to final terms guaranteeing value for money;

a £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund, made up of £50 million of Government funds and £25 million from Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and RBS. The fund will provide long-term capital to businesses who have exhausted traditional forms of finance.

Information on these schemes and initial diagnosis of eligibility is available at: www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance

TREASURY

UK Convergence Programme

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): Copies of the 2008 UK Convergence Programme are available in the Vote Office and have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

DEFENCE

Call-out Order (Iraq)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): With the expiry of the call-out order made last January, I am reporting that a new order was made under section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called out into service to support operations in Iraq. The new order is valid for 12 months.

Some 310 reservists are currently mobilised and deployed in support of operations in Iraq compared with 270 for the same period last year and 640 in December 2006. With the forthcoming drawdown in Iraq, the overall number of reservists deployed to theatre is expected to reduce during the course of this year but nevertheless there is a continued need to call out reservists, particularly to assist with the logistics and service support elements of the operation both in the UK and overseas.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

New Science Agency

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): My hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw) the then Minister for Marine Landscape and Rural Affairs announced on 26 March 2008 the creation of a new DEFRA executive agency to be vested on 1 April 2009. The agency will be formed from merging the Central Science Laboratory (CSL), the Plant Health Division (PHD)/ Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) and the Plant Variety Rights Office and Seeds Division (PVS). He explained that the new science agency would operate in shadow form from 1 April 2008.

I am pleased to announce that the new agency will be called the Food and Environment Research Agency. The role of the new agency is to provide robust evidence, rigorous analysis and professional advice to Government, international organisations and the private sector, in order to support and develop a sustainable food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks. The Food and Environment Research Agency will be a key organisation within Government's strategic science capability and in supporting DEFRA's strategic priorities to:

Secure a healthy natural environment for us all and deal with environmental risks

Promote a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy

Ensure a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Bill

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Government have today published the Coroners and Justice Bill.

I have also published today two additional documents which relate to the coroner provisions in the Bill.

The first of these documents is a revised draft Charter for bereaved people who come into contact with a reformed coroner system. This follows our most recent discussion paper on the draft Charter which was issued for comment between June and September last year. The draft illustrates what a Charter for bereaved people under a reformed service might look like. The final version of the Charter would be issued by the Lord Chancellor, following discussion with the new Chief Coroner, when the coroners' provisions in the Bill are implemented. The Charter is intended as an illustration of the key benefits which a reformed coroner system will deliver for bereaved families.

The second document is "Sensitive reporting in coroners' courts—response to comments 2006-08". The Government have carried out extensive consultation on the reporting of inquests, since the draft Coroners Bill was published in 2006, and this document summarises our position as a result of this process.

The draft Coroners Bill originally contained new powers for coroners to impose anonymity of reporting in any case where the coroner believed there to be no public interest in the names of families being made public. In October 2007 I announced that, following our first consultation, we had agreed to remove the provision on reporting restrictions from the Bill—*Official Report*, 25 October, column 20WS.

On 27 March 2008 we sought views again on alternative approaches—*Official Report*, 27 March 2008, column 17WS and have concluded that it would be more appropriate to work with the Press Complaints Commission on how their existing code of practice, insofar as it refers to the reporting of inquests, can be brought better to the attention of bereaved families.

Today I have deposited copies of both documents in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at: www.justice.gov.uk.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 19 January 2009

TREASURY

ECOFIN (December)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): ECOFIN met informally on Thursday 18 December 2008 in Paris. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury represented the UK.

Ministers discussed non-co-operative financial jurisdictions, the IMF's resources, and the setting up of an early warning system for financial risks at an international level. They also discussed taking forwards work at EU level in response to the action plan agreed by leaders at the Washington summit on 15 November.

Ministers asked the Financial Stability Forum to identify jurisdictions believed to be acting non-co-operatively in the financial sector. This will link with the European Commission's presentation of an action plan at the beginning of 2009 in this area. They also committed to reviewing all options to enable the IMF to have adequate resources to continue playing a stabilising role in the financial system. In order to detect macro-economic and financial risks within the global financial system, ECOFIN mandated their experts to identify means to evaluate more effectively the full extent of risks and strengthen collaboration between the IMF and the FSF.

ECOFIN will return to these issues under the Czech presidency of the EU in 2009.

ECOFIN (January)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 20 January 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

Presidency work programme

The Czech presidency will present its ECOFIN work programme for the first half of 2009.

Follow-up to the December European Council: Impact on Council Work

The presidency will take stock of the work arising from the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) agreed by the December European Council. The presidency plans to outline the next steps for two particular issues. The first is reduced rates of VAT, following discussions under the French presidency. The second is how the EU budget can best support infrastructure and energy efficiency projects. On both of these issues, the Government looks forward to working with the Czech presidency to take work forwards.

Economic and Budgetary Policy Strategy for 2009, including economic and financial situation and implementation of European Economic Recovery Plan

Ministers will exchange views, in the light of the economic situation and the EERP, on the economic and budgetary policy messages for ECOFIN work in 2009. This will include discussion of the impact of fiscal stimulus packages on budgetary rules under the stability and growth pact. The presidency will use the messages at this ECOFIN to inform the discussions at the spring European Council in March.

Introduction of the euro in Slovakia

The European Commission and the representative of Slovakia will present a first assessment of the introduction of the single currency in Slovakia on 1 January 2009.

Western Balkans Investment Framework

The Council will hear a report on progress on the establishment of the Western Balkans Investment Framework by 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Non-domestic Rating Valuations

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I am today announcing the decapitalisation rates to be used in the "contractor's method of valuation" in non-domestic rating valuations in England for the 2010 revaluation.

Rateable values are assessed independently by the Valuation Office Agency and are generally based on annual rental values. Most are assessed having regard to actual rents but such evidence is not always available. In about 11 per cent. of cases, rateable value is based on capital values, established from the cost of construction and land values, which is then "decapitalised" to give an annual value representing the rateable value. This is called the "contractor's method of valuation". The decapitalisation rates used in the valuation are prescribed by the Government.

Following consultation in the summer, I have decided:

to continue to prescribe the decapitalisation rates for the 2010 revaluation;

to retain the existing groupings of properties subject to each of the two decapitalisation rates; and

to retain the existing rates at 3.33 per cent. for education, health care and Ministry of Defence properties and 5 per cent. for all other properties.

I have set the rates having regard to the relevant factors outlined in the consultation paper. Those factors suggest that the range of possible outcomes for the decapitalisation rates remains very wide and that the existing rates are broadly in the middle of that range.

The 2010 revaluation is being undertaken by the Valuation Office Agency. Rateable values will be published by 1 October 2009.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EDF Takeover (British Energy)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): On 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 47WS, I informed the House that my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform wrote to the Business and Enterprise Select Committee in September 2008 to inform members of EDF's takeover offer for British Energy. Copies of this letter were placed in the Libraries of the House.

I am pleased to report that EDF has now successfully completed the takeover of British Energy, which included the 36 per cent stake in the company held by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF). The sale has raised approximately £4.42 billion for the NLF, which was set up at the time of BE's privatisation in 1996 to meet the eventual decommissioning costs of existing nuclear power stations. EDF will transfer this amount to NLF by Monday 19th January 2009. Completion of the takeover was announced by EDF on Monday 5th January 2009.

HEALTH

"Valuing People Now"

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): We are today publishing "Valuing People Now", the new cross-government strategy for people with learning disabilities along with the delivery plan. In addition, we are laying before Parliament the Government's further response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) report "A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities", which was published on 6 March 2008.

The new strategy is driven by responses to a very wide-ranging consultation last year on priorities for action to deliver real change for people with learning disabilities. Over 2,000 people responded to the consultation and the strategy addresses what people have told us about the support people with learning disabilities and their families need.

The strategy also sets out the Government's response to the ten main recommendations in "Healthcare for All", the report of the independent inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities, chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael.

The strategy provides a further response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights report "A Life Like Any Other"? The Government published its response to the conclusions and recommendations in that report on 6 May 2008. In its response the Government committed to providing the Joint Committee with a further response when publishing the final "Valuing People Now" strategy.

"Valuing People Now" has been placed in the Library and copies of both publications are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Humanitarian Assistance (Gaza)

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): Yesterday, on the day of a long-awaited ceasefire, I announced an additional pledge of up to £20 million for humanitarian needs in Gaza, bringing the UK's response to the crisis in Gaza to nearly £27 million.

These additional funds are already being spent. Yesterday evening, the Under- Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster), announced a contribution of £4 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross to carry out immediate work to save lives such as providing medical treatment to the injured. Today I am announcing £1 million to the World Food Programme to co-ordinate the relief items brought to Gaza by the UN and NGOs.

Despite the ceasefire, access for humanitarian agencies will continue to be a major challenge. We will need to do everything we can to ensure that humanitarian agencies have full and safe access to provide help to those who need it. The international community also need to move quickly to carry out an urgent needs assessment so that the slow process of rebuilding Gaza can start. The UK Government will work closely with all its international partners in these efforts.

This £20 million is in addition to our Paris pledge of up to £243 million in aid to the Palestinian people over three years and the £6.8 million in humanitarian assistance to Gaza that I announced on 31 December.

JUSTICE

Corporate Plan

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I am today publishing the Ministry of Justice Corporate Plan for 2009-2011. This, our first corporate plan, is the culmination of a huge amount of work to provide clarity on what the Department, only 20 months old, will achieve over the remainder of the Spending Review period, how and with what resources.

The plan is based around our four strategic objectives and explains how we will:

- Create a momentum of reform across the justice system with frontline staff working in partnership with local communities to bring about change.
- Build on our good work involving communities in justice so we are more responsive to how the public wants their justice system to develop.
- Ensure justice is not only done, but is seen to be done.
- Ensure that the voice of those who suffer most from the impact of crime—victims—is heard in all aspects of our work.

Like other Government Departments, we will make significant savings over this spending period, while continuing to improve the services we deliver to the public. The plan sets out our internal financial allocations for the next financial year and explains how we will

improve performance, drive out duplication, and ensure we have the capabilities to deliver our plan within our resource envelope. Copies of the corporate plan have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

In the short time since it was created, the Ministry of Justice has been leading reform across the justice system. This plan sets out an exciting agenda for the next phase of reform, which will ensure our justice system remains admired and emulated across the world.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 20 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regulation and Redress in the UK Housing Market

The Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Gareth Thomas): I am today laying before Parliament the Government review on regulation and redress in the UK housing market. The report for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Communities and Local Government was prepared by Professor Colin Jones of Heriot-Watt University. The review was announced by my right hon. Friend the Member for Makerfield (Mr. McCartney) during the passage of the Consumers, Estate Agents and Redress Bill. Copies of the report have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Vetting and Barring

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): Following the coming into force of secondary legislation made under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and debated and approved by Parliament, I can confirm that from today new arrangements come into effect which mean the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) will from now take barring decisions on new referrals under the current barring schemes. This is a further important step towards the full implementation of the new vetting and barring scheme which is being established under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

The safety of children and young people is our top priority. Today's transition is an important part of our reforms to ensure we have the toughest ever vetting and barring system for all those working with, or seeking to work with, children and vulnerable adults.

Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

The ISA was formally established in January 2008 to take forward transitional and preparatory work in readiness for the new vetting and barring scheme. The ISA is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office. Chaired by Sir Roger Singleton, the ISA will be responsible for making all barring decisions under the new vetting and barring scheme, to be established by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act. This scheme will replace the current List 99, Protection of Children Act (PoCA) list, the Disqualification Orders handed down by the courts, and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (PoVA) list with new lists barring individuals from working with children and vulnerable adults.

On 17 March 2008, I reported that, as part of the transition, we would begin to transfer the administration of List 99 casework to the ISA, which, since 31 March 2008, has advised the Secretary of State on the barring decisions, under the provisions of paragraph 1 of schedule 8 to the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act.

From today, under transitory provisions, the ISA will receive all new referrals made under the current barring schemes—List 99, PoCA, and PoVA—on safeguarding grounds and consider these cases for possible inclusion on the lists maintained by the ISA for barring individuals from working with children or vulnerable adults. In cases where action has been taken to consider a case before 20 January 2009, the decision will remain with the Secretary of State. The ISA will also be responsible for automatically including all individuals on the barred lists who have committed relevant offences, defined in regulations that were approved by Parliament in December 2008.

In addition to considering new referrals the ISA must, in accordance with statutory instruments which came into force on 7 April 2008, include, or consider including, in the new barred lists all those individuals who are barred under the current schemes. It is our intention that, where possible, this work will be completed before the new vetting and barring scheme is in place.

Progress on List 99

I would also like to update the House on progress on List 99 further to my statement on 17 March 2008.

Amended List 99 regulations came into force on 28 February 2007. These regulations extended the range of offences that will result in automatic inclusion on List 99 to include cautions as well as convictions for sexual offences against children. These changes have ensured that anyone aged 18 or over who is convicted of, or cautioned for, a relevant offence from 28 February 2007 will be automatically included on the list regardless of whether there is evidence that they have been in previous employment in the education and children's work force.

The regulations have been implemented vigorously and effectively since they came into force.

In my statement of 17 March 2008, I reported that, as at 13 March 2008, the number of individuals on List 99 was 8,036. As at 19 January 2009 the total number on List 99 is 12,992. The vast majority of the further increase in the number of individuals on List 99 is as a result of the implementation of the amended List 99 regulations that came into force on 28 February 2007.

In my March 2008 statement I also reported further progress made in following up the commitment made on 19 January 2006 by the then Secretary of State, my right hon. Friend for Bolton, West (Ruth Kelly), to ask Sir Roger Singleton to examine cases where Ministers or officials had decided since 1997 not to include individuals on List 99 where there were sexual offences that indicated a risk of harm to children. I also reported that my predecessor had decided to extend this examination to include all cases where there were sexual allegations between 1997 and 2005, in addition to all cases involving sexual offences or allegations before 1997. The aim of this was to establish whether any individual posed a risk of harm to children and if any action should be taken.

This important and painstaking work has been given the highest priority. In total 2,560 relevant case files have been reviewed by Sir Roger Singleton's panel 1,741 of these files were from the period 1940 to 1997 and 819 were cases from the period 1997 to 2005. In my statement of 17 March 2008 I reported that as a result of the panel's examination of these cases, and further information gathered from the police, 46 individuals had been barred. This work is nearing completion and the number of individuals who have been barred has now increased to 50.

I am extremely grateful for the work of Sir Roger Singleton who has continued to advise me on these cases.

I am also particularly grateful for the assistance of the police in providing information on individuals who have committed relevant offences to my officials in order that barring can be undertaken.

I am also grateful to the ISA for their advice on List 99 cases and wish them every success in the next phase of this vitally important work.

A Home Office Minister will make a statement to the House in due course on the ISA's work and progress towards the implementation of the new scheme.

HEALTH

Dental Services

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): The House of Commons Health Select Committee published its report on dental services on 2 July 2008. We made an interim response on 7 October 2008 and said we would look at what actions would have the most immediate and effective impact on access. We are today laying before Parliament the Command Paper that sets out these further actions.

As set out in our interim response, we are confident that the new dental commissioning arrangements introduced in 2006 give primary care trusts greater powers and flexibility to secure high-quality local dental services that meet the needs of local people. New services are opening all over the country and there were 655 more dentists working in the National Health Service in 2007-08 than in the previous year.

But, as we indicated in October, we know there is more to do and we said then that we would work with professional and patient groups to review how we and the NHS could achieve the maximum benefits for patients from the 2006 reforms.

This further response reports on the results of this work. In particular, it sets out the scope of the independent review of dentistry in England that we have commissioned and the work we said we would undertake with strategic health authorities to agree how to secure rapid improvements in availability of NHS dental services.

We are determined to address the long-standing problems of access to NHS dental services and to secure a sustainable system of high-quality NHS dental services that reflect the overall vision of high quality care for all set out in the conclusions of the NHS next stage review.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Deportations With Assurances (Ethiopia)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am pleased to announce that on 12 December my noble Friend Lord West of Spithead, Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for security and counter-terrorism and Dr Tekeda Alemu, Ethiopian Deputy Foreign Minister, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia concerning the provision of assurances in respect of persons subject to deportation on grounds of national security.

Associated side letters recording the position of the two Governments on the application of the death penalty and the terms of reference for the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission's role as monitoring body have also been exchanged.

This agreement is a practical demonstration of the growing relationship between the UK and Ethiopia in countering terrorism.

Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding and the associated side letters have been placed in the Library of both Houses and on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website.

JUSTICE

Prison Drug Treatment Review Group

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): On 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column WS22, by way of a written ministerial statement, together with my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), Minister of State for Health and the then Under-Secretary of State for Health, my hon. Friend the Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis), announced: additional Department of Health funding for prison clinical drug treatment; a national prison drug treatment strategy review group, to be chaired by Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel; and publication of the executive summary of the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) report, "A Review of Prison Based Drug Treatment Funding, December 2007".

I am today with my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Health announcing the membership of the national prison drug treatment strategy review group. The remit of the review group will be to consider the PwC recommendations, agree a single set of priorities and compile national guidance around the streamlining of the commissioning, delivery, funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders.

Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel selected the members of the review group based on the knowledge, expertise and experience that each individual can bring. The criteria for membership were as follows:

Ability to make a positive and constructive contribution to making changes in the commissioning,delivery, funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders;

Knowledge, experience and a respected track record of creating system changes including a commitment to making a difference;

Known and respected amongst their peers either within the fields of drug treatment, criminal justice or in wider change management;

Direct service user and carer experience;

Ability and capacity to actively contribute to the work of the review group including, when appropriate, attendance at additional sub-group meetings or location and project visits.

The list of members will be placed in the House Libraries.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Anthony Leon Peart

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): On 22 November 2007 the then Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism Crime and Policing, the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, and I invited HM Chief Inspector of the CPS, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, HM Chief Inspector of Courts Administration and HM Chief Inspector of Prisons jointly to undertake a review into the circumstances which led to Anthony Leon Peart being at liberty on 29 July 2005, when Richard Whelan was fatally stabbed by him. On that day, Peart had been released from Forest Bank prison, Greater Manchester when there was a warrant outstanding for his immediate arrest.

The Chief Inspectors' report was published on 28 April 2008 and made a number of detailed recommendations. A cross-agency working group was convened to take forward the detailed work in implementing the recommendations. A number of these have now been implemented in full and significant work has been conducted on those remaining. I have today placed a short report on progress in the Libraries of both Houses and published it on the Attorney-General's Office website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 21 January 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Finance

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): I have today laid before the House two reports.

The first is the Local Government Finance Report (England) 2009-10. This report establishes the amounts of revenue support grant (RSG) and non-domestic rates (NDR) to be paid to local authorities in 2009-10, and the basis of their distribution. A draft of this report was issued for consultation on 26 November 2008.

The second report is the Limitation of Council Tax and Precepts (Alternative Notional Amounts) Report (England) 2009-10. This sets out the alternative notional amounts for the nine restructuring authorities which will be established on 1 April 2009. This report provides 2008-09 budget requirement figures for these authorities that can be used as a comparison in the event that the Government use our capping powers. A draft of this report was also issued for consultation on 26 November 2008 alongside the finance settlement, on which we received just one response from a restructuring authority, which confirmed its agreement with the figure in the report for its alternative notional amount.

On the settlement, we received a total of 109 written responses from 107 individual authorities, MPs, and formal and informal groupings of authorities. Ministers met delegations from the Local Government Association, London councils, and groups representative of county councils, shire districts and fire and rescue authorities. Having considered the views of the local authority associations and others who have commented on the provisional settlement, I have decided to confirm my proposals for the distribution of the 2009-10 local government grant and for the alternative notional amounts in relation to the financial year beginning 1 April 2009.

The final figures published today for 2009-10 confirm those originally published with the 2008-09 settlement in January 2008. In line with Government's policy on multi-year settlements, it has always been clear that the settlement for 2009-10, as the second year of a three-year settlement, would not be changed from that previously published other than in exceptional circumstances. Having fully considered all the representations received during consultation I have not found such exceptional circumstances.

This settlement represents a continued real-terms increase in investment in local government, which will allow authorities to continue to deliver improving services at an affordable cost. Total formula grant for 2009-10 will be £780 million or 2.8 per cent. higher than in 2008-09 on a like-for-like basis. Specific grants, such as the dedicated schools grant, are on top of these figures and bring the total increase in funding for local authorities to 4.2 per cent. in 2009-10. In the 10 years up to 2007-08 we have increased total Government grant by 39 per cent. in real terms, with an above inflation increase for local government in each and every one of those years. There will be a further total increase over this three-year settlement of £8.9 billion.

Given this substantial rise in investment in local government over more than a decade, there can be no excuse for excessive council tax increases. I have made clear and I repeat today—that the Government expect the average council tax increase in 2009-10 to be substantially below 5 per cent.. We had to take capping action in 2008-09. If necessary, we will do so again in 2009-10 to protect council tax payers if they are faced with excessive increases. No authority should be in any doubt about the Government's resolve in this matter, particularly during this period of economic downturn, including requiring authorities to re-bill if necessary.

I shall be sending copies of the Local Government Finance Report to all local authorities in England and making available full supporting information on the Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0910/grant.htm.

I have placed copies of the reports and related tables showing each authority's allocation of formula grant and other supporting material in the Vote Office and the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Government have long-standing concerns with the promotion of peace in Sri Lanka, where the conflict has claimed at least 70,000 lives during the past 26 years. We are now at an important moment.

Since its abrogation in January 2008 of the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement, the Sri Lankan Government have embarked on a policy of militarily defeating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). In recent months the Government have made significant military gains, including the capture of Kilinochchi, the former administrative centre of the LTTE in the north, and the capture of remaining rebel territory in the Jaffna peninsula. These gains make progress on a political solution even more urgent. The LTTE is a proscribed terrorist organisation with no democratic mandate to represent the Tamil people. It is responsible for a terrorist campaign that has targeted innocent civilians across all communities in Sri Lanka over the past three decades.

Thousands of lives have been lost since the renewal of open hostilities in 2006. We recognise the Government of Sri Lanka's need to root out terrorism. It also has a responsibility to safeguard the rights of all its citizens and adequately to address their political concerns. Our consistent position remains that for peace to be sustainable, an inclusive political process that takes fully into account the legitimate concerns of all Sri Lankan communities—Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim—is essential. As my right

hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said, we must see an end to the conflict and new drive for a lasting political solution. We continue to engage with all political parties across all communities in Sri Lanka to support progress in this direction.

We are deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and the growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke about this issue with President Rajapakse when they met last September and we continue to raise our concern at senior levels. The UN estimates that 200,000-300,000 IDPs remain in the conflict area. Although there have been convoys providing basic humanitarian assistance, there are credible reports that these supplies are inadequate. The military gains by the Sri Lankan armed forces have resulted in these IDPs being squeezed into an ever-decreasing space. Further deterioration in the situation would mean acute humanitarian need and distress.

Following on from a Department for International Development (DFID) mission in September 2008, we will be sending a DFID humanitarian expert in the coming weeks to try to assess the situation and to report on the distribution of £2.5 million in humanitarian funding that we have committed to assist IDPs in northern Sri Lanka. In co-ordination with international organisations on the ground, we have urged all parties to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the need to ensure the safety of civilians, to allow their free movement and to enhance access for humanitarian agencies to facilitate the delivery of adequate supplies of humanitarian aid. Safe passage for civilians wanting to escape the hostilities should be guaranteed by all parties and safe humanitarian space provided for them. We believe that a full independent assessment of the IDPs' humanitarian needs is essential. Such an assessment would be a powerful demonstration that everything that can be done is being done to support these vulnerable people. We will continue to press on these matters.

Recent weeks have seen a considerable number of high profile attacks on media freedom in Sri Lanka. We condemn such brazen attacks. Of particular concern was the murder on 8 January of the Chief Editor of the Sunday Leader newspaper, Lasantha Wickrematunge. The Sri Lankan authorities have a duty to take prompt action to ensure a thorough and independent investigation is carried out. Those responsible must be held to account. The lack of progress in securing convictions for such cases indicates that urgent action is needed.

There continue to be reports of abductions, disappearances and acts of violence and intimidation in Sri Lanka. Without strong mechanisms for independent human rights reporting, it is difficult to assess the true scope of the problem. We consistently call upon the Government of Sri Lanka to take decisive action to tackle human rights abuses, including by taking action against those responsible for violations. Creating an environment in which people from all communities in Sri Lanka live without fear is essential to creating the conditions for a sustainable end to the conflict. The recent commitments by militias on release of child soldiers and disarmament following our lobbying are welcome steps that need to be followed through.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has written to President Rajapakse to express our concerns.

HEALTH

NHS Constitution for England

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Lord Darzi's review of the NHS, "High Quality Care for All", concluded that there was a case for a constitution to enshrine the principles and values of the NHS in England. A draft constitution based on extensive evidence and research with public, patients and staff was published for consultation on 30 June 2008. The consultation process was led by strategic health authorities and overseen by a group of experts on the Constitutional Advisory forum. Consultation events for patients, the public and staff were held in each primary care trust and the outcomes fed back to the strategic health authorities and then the Constitutional Advisory Forum. The Department also received over 1,000 direct responses to the consultation, which closed on 17 October 2008.

The NHS values, which form part of the constitution, were developed separately and were the subject of extensive engagement with staff, patients and the public.

The Constitutional Advisory Forum published its report on 11 December, emphasising that the response to the consultation had been overwhelmingly positive, with a broad consensus in favour of an NHS constitution. They made a series of recommendations on how to improve the document and on how to embed it in the NHS. The Department has responded to these recommendations and to the responses to the consultation in the Government response, published today and placed in the Library.

The final NHS Constitution for England, which has been placed in the Library, is an enduring document that sets out the principles and values of the NHS and for the first time brings into one place NHS pledges and the rights and responsibilities of patients, the public and staff.

As a result of the consultation, the NHS Constitution contains a new right to receive the vaccinations that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommends under an NHS-provided national immunisation programme. The new right to choice has also been extended to include a right to information to support that choice. This currently means that any person requiring an elective referral may choose any clinically appropriate secondary care provider for their first consultant-led outpatient appointment and has a right to information to support that choice.

The new legal rights in the NHS Constitution will be created through separate regulations and directions, which are due to come into force on 1 April. Regulations on the right to receive vaccinations have been laid today. Directions on the right to choice and draft directions underpinning the right to rational local decisions on drugs and other treatments have also been published today.

The Health Bill, published on 16 January, provides for a legal duty on all NHS bodies and independent contractors providing NHS services to have regard to the NHS Constitution in their decisions and actions. The Bill also requires the NHS Constitution to be reviewed at least every 10 years following full consultation.

Also published today are the handbook to the NHS Constitution and a statement of NHS accountability, both of which have been placed in the Library. The handbook to the NHS Constitution is designed to give NHS staff and patients all the more detailed information they need. It explains what the rights, pledges and responsibilities mean and explains what to do if rights are not met or pledges are not upheld. It also explains the legal basis of each right.

The consultation on the NHS Constitution asked whether the Government should produce a statement of NHS accountability. The response was highly positive. The Statement of NHS Accountability is a public-facing document, which describes the system of responsibility and accountability for taking decisions in the NHS and provides a summary of the structure and functions of the NHS in England. The NHS Constitution commits the Government always to make available an up-to-date statement of accountability in the future.

An impact assessment on the NHS Constitution has also been published today and a copy placed in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Grants (England and Wales) 2009-10

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has today laid before the House the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2009-10 (HC 148). The report sets out my right hon. Friend's determination for 2009-10 of the aggregate amount of grants that she proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996, and the amount to be paid to the Greater London Authority for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

General police grant allocations, which include Home Office Police Grant and Department for Communities and Local Government/Welsh Assembly Government General Grant for each police authority for 2009-10 are set out in the table.

General Police Grant Allocations for English and Welsh Police Authorities 2009-10

Police Authority	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Change on 2008-09*
	Formula Allocation[1]	*Allocation*[1]	*Formula Allocation*
	£m	*£m*	*%*
English Shire Authorities			
Avon and Somerset	173.7	179.7	3.5%
Bedfordshire	68.5	70.8	3.3%
Cambridgeshire	78.7	81.0	3.0%
Cheshire	117.6	120.5	2.5%
Cleveland	95.3	97.7	2.5%
Cumbria	65.6	67.2	2.5%
Derbyshire	109.2	112.6	3.2%
Devon and Cornwall	181.9	186.4	2.5%
Dorset	63.7	65.3	2.5%
Durham	89.2	91.4	2.5%
Essex	173.0	177.9	2.8%
Gloucestershire	57.8	59.3	2.5%
Hampshire	202.2	207.5	2.6%
Hertfordshire	117.7	121.1	3.0%
Humberside	125.1	128.4	2.6%
Kent	187.2	192.1	2.7%
Lancashire	198.8	204.1	2.7%
Leicestershire	114.7	118.0	2.9%
Lincolnshire	62.3	64.3	3.1%
Norfolk	85.4	87.6	2.5%
North Yorkshire	74.8	76.7	2.5%
Northamptonshire	73.5	75.5	2.6%
Nottinghamshire	136.9	141.4	3.3%
Staffordshire	117.4	120.6	2.7%
Suffolk	69.2	71.0	2.5%
Surrey	99.3	101.8	2.5%
Sussex	165.7	169.8	2.5%
Thames Valley	231.9	238.2	2.7%
Warwickshire	52.8	54.1	2.6%
West Mercia	118.9	121.8	2.5%
Wiltshire	63.6	65.2	2.5%
Shires Total	3571.3	3669.0	2.7%
English Metropolitan Authorities			
Greater Manchester	445.6	458.9	3.0%
Merseyside	260.6	267.4	2.6%
Northumbria	243.8	249.9	2.5%
South Yorkshire	199.1	204.1	2.5%
West Midlands	468.0	486.1	3.9%
West Yorkshire	328.2	339.2	3.4%
Mets Total	1945.4	2005.7	3.1%
London Authorities			
GLA – Police	1930.0	1978.3	2.5%
City of London[2]	20.2	21.0	N/A
English Total	7466.9	7674.0	2.8%
Welsh Authorities			
Dyfed-Powys[3]	53.1	54.4	2.5%
Gwent[3]	80.6	82.6	2.5%
North Wales[3]	78.2	80.1	2.5%
South Wales[3]	176.7	181.5	2.7%
Welsh Total	388.6	398.6	2.6%
Total	7855.5	8072.6	2.8%

Notes

[1] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2—Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.

[2] Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue Support Grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of floors.

[3] Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Omagh Bombing

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): In the town of Omagh on 15 August 1998, a criminal terrorist group known as the Real IRA (RIRA) detonated a 500 lb bomb in a car, after issuing warnings which were clearly misleading and resulted in compounding the number of deaths. RIRA murdered 29 men, women and children and two unborn babies.

To date, despite the efforts of then Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and now Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Garda Siochana, only one person has been convicted on a charge of conspiracy to cause an explosion. This conviction was overturned on appeal in the Dublin Court of Criminal Appeal.

The Government understand that because no one has yet been brought to justice for this heinous crime the pain and grief continues to compound for those who suffered so much.

The events around 15 August 1998 have rightly been the subject of media coverage and understandably continue to generate interest.

On 15 September 2008 the BBC broadcast an edition of the Panorama programme, written and presented by John Ware, entitled "Omagh—What the Police Were Never Told". John Ware had also written an article published in *The Sunday Telegraph* on 14 September alleging, inter alia, that at the relevant time, vital intercept evidence had not been passed promptly enough to the police and thereby might have prevented the bombing or subsequently assist the investigating officers to bring the perpetrators to justice.

In view of the seriousness of the issues raised, the Prime Minister on 17 September asked Sir Peter Gibson, the Intelligence Services Commissioner, to "review any intercepted intelligence material available to the security and intelligence agencies in relation to the Omagh bombing and how this intelligence was shared". In his review, Sir Peter examined the role of GCHQ in gathering and handling intercept intelligence at the material time. He also investigated what intercept was shared with the RUC.

In preparing his report, Sir Peter drew on a range of highly sensitive and highly classified material made available to him by those agencies involved in the production of intercept intelligence.

Some of this material is inevitably subject to legal constraints. Its publication would disclose information about how our security and intelligence agencies currently function and thereby compromise current operations aimed at ensuring the protection of our national security.

Nonetheless, the Government believe it is right and appropriate to publish as much of the findings of the review as possible.

I have therefore placed in the Library of the House a copy of a document setting out in considerable detail Sir Peter's conclusions. It is also my intention today to make the full, classified report available to Members of the Intelligence and Security Committee for their scrutiny.

At the time of the Omagh bombing the action taken by GCHQ on any interception was governed by procedures agreed between GCHQ and RUC Special Branch. Those procedures were documented in written guidance for the relevant GCHQ team. Specifically, intercepts relating to phone numbers designated by Special Branch as being highest priority were monitored live. GCHQ carried out the tasks it was asked to carry out by Special Branch.

Throughout 1998, including on 15 August, GCHQ ensured intelligence from any interception that might have been relevant to those operations being conducted by Special Branch was made promptly available to them. This included "near real time" provision of information; that is, almost immediately after a call had been listened to itself in near real time. This was in accordance with the pre-agreed criteria.

Any formal intelligence reports were issued within hours of interception in broad accordance with procedures agreed between GCHQ and Special Branch.

Sir Peter concludes he is satisfied that in the days surrounding 15 August, and on the day itself, to the extent that any relevant intelligence derived from interception existed, this was shared with RUC HQ and Special Branch promptly and fully; and done so with the latter by procedures agreed with Special Branch South. He also concludes that there was nothing to suggest either a bomb attack was going to take place on 15 August or the town of Omagh was the target of any such bomb attack.

Sir Peter found no evidence to support the allegations of the Panorama programme that, in the run-up to 15 August, the Garda had warned the police of a likely attack. Crucially, any intelligence derived from interception as might have existed would not have prevented the bombing.

The programme also suggested that the cars involved in the bombing could have been tracked and their journey monitored on a screen.

Sir Peter is also satisfied that in 1998, on the basis of evidence from an independent expert witness from a mobile communications provider, it was neither possible to track mobile phones in real time nor visualise the location and movement of mobile phones in the way shown in the Panorama programme.

Assertions in the programme that live monitoring on the day would have shown what was going to happen are incorrect and unsupported by any evidence.

It was also implied in the Panorama programme that GCHQ did not pass on intercepted intelligence to RUC CID to help the enquiry. This is not supported by the facts.

Further to this, there were arrangements in place at that time which allowed for RUC Special Branch to make requests in respect of further dissemination of any GCHQ material. The records confirm that no such request was made.

The handling of intelligence material by the then Special Branch and their relationship to other investigative arms of the police has been the subject of a number of previous reviews and reports. As the Chief Constable has indicated in a letter sent to me yesterday, a copy of which I have also placed in the Library of the House, in line with the recommendations made by the police ombudsman in her December 2001 report on the bombing,

and the subsequent Crompton report, serious and organised crime investigation, including terrorist crime investigation and the intelligence branch were grouped together within one department, crime operations, under a single assistant chief constable.

Special Branch no longer exists, having been replaced by a branch with service-wide responsibility for all intelligence from volume crime to the most serious crime.

A dissemination policy today determines how intelligence is shared for the purposes of a criminal investigation; early investigative expertise is sought in cases of serious crime; and the Police Service of Northern Ireland resources these areas to operate at the highest national standards in respect of handling intelligence and the investigation of serious and organised crime.

The Government share with the British and Irish public the deep regret that those responsible have neither faced justice nor been punished for their wicked crimes. And while it remains right that the police and other agencies charged with protecting the public from terrorism are accountable for their conduct and subject to scrutiny, we must never forget the bomb was the deliberate work of RIRA and we all have a continuing duty to do all we can to bring these criminals to justice.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 22 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

National Minimum Wage

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): The Low Pay Commission (LPC) has asked for the Government's agreement to delay making recommendations on the national minimum wage (NMW) this year. The recommendations were due to be made by the end of February; the request is to extend this to 1 May. The Government have agreed.

The Low Pay Commission made this request to allow them to take account of two further months of data, including the Bank of England's inflation report, employee job figures for December, GDP figures for the fourth quarter of 2008, and updates on average earnings. The Government agree that the LPC recommendations should be based on the best available evidence.

The delay will not impact on the planned date for entry into force of the new rates, on 1 October.

TREASURY

Tax Information Exchange Agreement (United Kingdom/Guernsey)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new Tax Information Exchange Agreement with Guernsey was signed on 20 January 2009, alongside an arrangement amending the 1952 arrangement with Guernsey for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. After signature, the text of the agreement and the arrangement were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The texts will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces Day

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I wish to announce today that the Government have selected Chatham Historic Dockyard to be the host for the 2009 Armed Forces Day national event.

We announced our plans to hold an Armed Forces Day when we published our response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces in October last year[1]. The intent is to provide an occasion during which the whole nation has the opportunity to show its appreciation for the contribution made to society by all those who serve and have served in Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

The title "Armed Forces Day" has been chosen to reflect the wider armed forces family of serving personnel (both regular and reserve), veterans and the cadet forces. This sense of inclusiveness is reflected in the strapline for the Day: "Honouring Britain's Armed Forces, Past, Present and Future".

Building on the success of previous Veterans Day celebrations, we plan to mark the occasion with a wide range of community-led events taking place in towns and cities around the country. Last year, we supported over 100 such events and we expect a similar level of activity this year. To provide a focus for the national recognition, we also intend to support a national event and a number of local authorities and other organisations have also submitted bids to be the national event host. There were a number of compelling bids that offered excellent prospects to host a prestigious and fitting event, but against stiff competition, we have selected Chatham Historic Dockyard to be the host for the 2009 national event.

I will be writing to all Members of Parliament soon setting out more details of our plans for the Day.

[1]The Government's Response to the Report of Inquiry into National Recognition of our Armed Forces, October 2008.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Household Waste Incentives

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jane Kennedy): Powers in the Climate Change Act allow up to five local authorities in England to pilot household waste incentives schemes.

The Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock), wrote to authorities in June 2008 asking for expressions of interest in piloting a scheme to be sent in within eight weeks after Royal Assent. That date fell yesterday.

No local authorities have so far expressed an interest in taking up these powers. The powers are of course voluntary and were introduced in response to requests from local government. As with all local issues, decisions on waste management are best taken by local government.

There are a range of tools available to local authorities to help them manage their waste more sustainably. Local authorities are working hard to reduce the amount of waste thrown away and increase the amount recycled, and we have seen great progress, with recycling quadrupling in the last 10 years.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 26 January in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Presentation of the Czech Presidency's Priorities

The presidency will outline their priorities: Economy, Energy and Europe in the World. In practice, this is likely to mean a focus on enlargement, the Eastern Partnership, energy security, single market, economic recovery, post-2013 Lisbon strategy and better regulation, which the Government support.

We also expect the presidency to present their plans for the Eastern Partnership, which they have said will be a key agenda item for the spring European Council on 19 and 20 March. We support the Eastern Partnership, and will work closely with the presidency, Commission and EU partners to develop the initiative. The presidency plans a Summit of Heads of State from the EU 27 and Eastern partner countries on 7 May to launch the partnership.

Energy Security

The Council will discuss the presidency's priority of Energy Security with particular reference to the Russia-Ukraine gas dispute and its impact on the EU. We support the presidency and Commission's handling of this dispute and agree with President Barroso that it has done long-term damage to both parties' reputations as reliable energy partners. We welcome the recently announced agreement by the two parties, and the resumption of gas flow through Ukraine, and hope this will prove to be a long-term, sustainable solution. The situation of the last few weeks cannot be allowed to happen again.

In the longer-term the dispute has highlighted the need to tackle EU energy security as a whole. We therefore expect Ministers to discuss the EU Strategic Energy Review (SEER2), released on 13 November 2008, and look ahead to the adoption of an ambitious action plan at the spring European Council on 19 and 20 March. This will be an important step in ensuring a more coherent EU energy policy. The action plan needs to focus on increasing diversification of energy supplies for the EU and interconnection within the EU, greater transparency of gas flows and improving our ability to respond to supply disruptions. At the same time, the EU needs to increase its energy efficiency and continue to work towards the creation of a fully functioning internal energy market. The SEER2 identifies six strategic energy infrastructure projects. The UK particularly welcomes concrete actions to develop the southern gas corridor, which would bring Caspian gas into the EU via Turkey thereby diversifying both the sources and routes of energy supply.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

The Middle East Peace Process, and more specifically Gaza, will be high on the Council's agenda. The GAERC will follow two other EU ministerial meetings which the presidency has convened at short notice to discuss Gaza: an EU-Israel Foreign Ministers meeting on Wednesday 21 January and a meeting between the EU and the Egyptian, Turkish, Palestinian and Jordanian Foreign Ministers on Sunday 25 January.

The outcome of the GAERC will depend in part on developments this week, and the outcomes of these other meetings. But we hope that the Council will welcome the cessation of hostilities in Gaza and call for all parties to make the current ceasefire permanent through the full implementation of UNSCR 1860.

We also expect Ministers to discuss the EU's specific contribution to the peace process, including a focus on: the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance; efforts to reopen the Gaza crossings, including exploring the EU's readiness to relaunch EUBAM Rafah, its border monitoring mission; and efforts to tackle arms smuggling into Gaza. Ministers are also likely to discuss how best to support inter-Palestinian reconciliation and galvanise the international community behind the wider MEPP and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Russia/Ukraine

We expect Ministers to consider the long-term implications of the Russia-Ukraine gas dispute for the EU's relations with both countries.

Zimbabwe

We expect conclusions to express serious concern at the failure of the regime to respond to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. We anticipate inclusion of a call for regional states to pave the way for the establishment of an equitable power-sharing agreement in Zimbabwe. We expect a call for investigations into links between illicit diamond trading in Zimbabwe and the regime. Conclusions should also note the extension and renewal of targeted measures against individuals and entities associated with the Mugabe regime's violence and human rights violations. The EU will also reaffirm its commitment to the alleviation of suffering through the provision of aid.

Guantanamo Bay

We expect Ministers to welcome President Obama's commitment to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, in line with the EU's long standing position. We also expect Ministers to discuss the issues surrounding closure, including any requests by the US for assistance and whether the EU might consider a collective response.

The UK and China: A Framework for Engagement

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The Government today are launching "The UK and China: A Framework for Engagement". This document sets out our policy towards China over the next four years.

The paper states that, while China is already one of the world's top four economies, we are probably still only in the early stages of its re-emergence. China's impact on UK interests is already critical, and it is growing. Chinese markets and investments are increasingly important for UK business. More broadly, Chinese policies are enormously significant for our global agenda: addressing the need for economic, financial and institutional reform through mechanisms such as the G20, managing

global pressure on resources, promoting lower carbon growth and sustainable development, achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs), and reducing conflict and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. On security issues, China is a pivotal member of the UN Security Council and its regional relations will be key to Asian stability.

The framework offers three pillars for the UK's response to this challenge and sets out the series of outcomes we are working for under each. The outcomes are in places aspirational and by necessity subject to review. In a period of economic uncertainty, achieving our targets in trade and economic co-operation will be particularly challenging.

The three pillars are:

Getting the best for the UK from China's growth: this is about encouraging China to see the UK as a global hub, and boosting our business, educational, scientific and cultural gains from the bilateral relationship. It is also about ensuring the UK has the right domestic policies in place to benefit from China's growth.

Fostering China's emergence as a responsible global player: this is about encouraging an approach of responsible sovereignty on international and global issues, from proliferation and international security to sustainable development and climate change. It is also about helping China to define its interests increasingly broadly.

Promoting sustainable development, modernisation and internal reform in China: this is about influencing China's evolving domestic policies, helping China manage the risks of its rapid development and, over time, narrowing differences between us. Greater respect for human rights is crucial to this.

Our strategy also sets out the tools at our disposal to pursue these aims: regular interaction with our Chinese counterparts from the Prime Minister down, our growing network of diplomatic posts, the European Union, and our co-operation with other partners within the EU, with the US and with others. Working towards the outcomes we want will require patience, persistence and effective partnership. We will be candid where we disagree but we will ensure that the relationship remains characterised by co-operation, not confrontation. Building a progressive, comprehensive relationship with China will be a major priority in the years ahead.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus: De-mining

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The UK is committed to supporting the settlement negotiations ongoing in Cyprus aimed at reunifying the island. The current negotiations offer the best chance there has ever been at finding a solution to the Cyprus problem.

The UK Government believe the key work done by UN development programme staff in removing land mines in the buffer zone in Cyprus is important in supporting the settlement negotiations. The work has been a highly successful confidence building measure and was vital in enabling the Ledra street crossing point to open.

I expressed my concern about the shortfall in funding for the Mine Action Centre in 2009 during the House of Commons Adjournment debate on Cyprus on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 454 and underlined my belief that its important work should continue. Therefore I am today announcing a UK donation of €50,000 to the UN Mine Action Centre in Cyprus.

The work to remove landmines in the buffer zone has been largely funded by the EU to the sum of €9 million along with donations from Slovenia, Canada and Hungary. The UK donation of €50,000 will cover the running costs of the Mine Action Centre for February and March while the longer-term, sustainable funding is secured to enable this vital work to continue.

I am delighted that we have been able to lend financial support at a critical time to such a high profile confidence building measure with a proven track record of success. I look forward to seeing the centre's work at first hand during my next visit to the island in February.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The Justice and Home Affairs informal Council was held on 15 and 16 January 2009 in Prague. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom. The first day of the informal Council focused on interior items, whilst the second day dealt with justice issues. A planned debate on EU drug policy did not take place but will be added to the agenda of the next JHA Council on 26 and 27 February 2009.

On the implementation of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), the Commission noted that while significant problems remained, consultants had concluded that the architecture of the system did not need to be fundamentally revised. However, a four-month time period is needed to fix the current problems and provide sufficient stability in the central system for testing to resume. The Commission proposed a new, more focused programme management structure to help deliver this test/repair approach, which involved member state experts.

Delegations expressed frustration at the delays and costs incurred and recommended a thorough analysis of what could be repaired and what was beyond repair. Analysis of what had taken place needed to begin in parallel with a full examination of the alternatives with clear timescales in place. It was also argued that any alternative scenarios needed to take into account the investments already made, something upon which the presidency gave assurances. The UK noted that everyone needed to pull together to solve the current situation.

Delegations were divided on when a decision should be taken on the options available, with some, including the UK, arguing for April, and others, including the Commission, suggesting that June was more viable. The presidency brought the debate to a close by noting that an alternative solution should be scoped in parallel to the ongoing work to test and analyse the current system, and a taskforce approach to testing would be implemented to offer greater scrutiny by member states' experts. The February JHA Council will be asked to confirm this approach.

On the use of modern technology for security purposes, the presidency stressed the importance of the core values of mobility, security and privacy in taking forward this work. The Commission emphasised the need for a coherent common strategy to enable information sharing and interoperability, covering all aspects of law enforcement information exchange across the EU. The UK also stressed the need for a broad strategy, but one which was not artificially constrained by the treaty pillars, and which drew on operational needs. The UK agreed that balance of privacy and data sharing was important. In subsequent interventions there was general support for a broad strategy in the area of EU information access that looked at the practical needs and that could then be reflected in the post-Hague JHA work programme. There was also a sense that this work should be taken forward through existing Council structures rather than through the creation of new groups.

On the related issue of the use of modern technologies in border control, migration management and asylum policy, there was clear support for the use of modern technologies to improve border management, including the use of biometric data to manage external borders. There was also broad support to develop the use of Eurodac. The presidency noted that existing mechanisms should be combined to enhance the effectiveness of border management work and said that the entry/exit system and registered traveller system would be ongoing areas of work for its presidency. The Commission recognised the possibility of an automated border system for those with biometric travel documents, but noted that a requirement to make the collection of such data binding would require a change to the current legislation. The Commission thought that new systems should only be developed once the legal instrument had been agreed, and systems needed to be developed in an integrated manner, across all levels (national and EU). The Commission also said that there would be an agency to manage IT systems, which would improve the process and enable member states to be more involved. The UK welcomed the presidency's proposals, noting its extensive use of data in border management, which facilitated travel as well as being a tool for law enforcement and migration management. It was important to learn from one another, and agree on the basic principles and benefits for citizens, for example in the use of passenger name records.

During a working lunch the presidency sought views on the international protection of children, with particular emphasis on the use of IT, including SIS II. The Commission raised the issue of the still small number of member states who currently have an early warning child abduction system in place. The UK called for support on a number of related issues: the work being undertaken by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre to tackle the sale and distribution of abusive images; for member states to consider participation of their law enforcement agencies in the virtual global taskforce (an international collaboration of law enforcement agencies who lead work to tackle child sexual abuse and exploitation both on and offline in their respective countries) to broaden its use within the EU; for consideration of an EU-wide child abduction taskforce and use of a website to exchange information and child alerts. Other delegations stressed the importance of concerted effort at EU level, mentioning specifically the role of internet service providers (ISPs), while warning against duplication of existing Interpol work in relation to child pornography.

As regards the debate on the future of mutual recognition of court decisions and judgments, there was a general sense that mutual recognition should remain the cornerstone of judicial co-operation. However, there were also widespread calls for better implementation and for improved evaluation of existing instruments, and for minimum procedural safeguards in order to enhance trust in each others' systems. The UK stressed the importance of proportionality in the way instruments were applied, and called for existing standards under the European Convention on Human Rights to be better observed.

During the debate on succession and family law, general support was expressed in principle for a proposal that dealt with problems arising from succession and wills involving property in more than one country. However there was widespread caution as to the detail, with some delegations calling for work to proceed slowly and taking full account of the diversity of member states' legal systems. During a short discussion on family law, some states observed that it would be better to focus on implementation of agreed measures before proceeding further. A number of delegations spoke in favour of enhanced co-operation where negotiations on family law measures among all member states had not led to agreement. Nonetheless, the Commission indicated it did not consider that there was the critical mass to proceed with a proposal under enhanced co-operation on choice of law in divorce (following from the failure to reach agreement on Rome III).

Over lunch there was a discussion about e-justice. The presidency announced that they are going to produce a manual listing the location of video-conferencing facilities in every member state. The Commission said that member states would be able to request funding to help them to improve their video-conferencing capabilities.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for England

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): I should like to inform the House that I have made the following appointments under schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986:

Mr. David Elvin QC, appointed as a Member of the Boundary Commission for England, effective from 12 January 2009 until 11 January 2014; and

Mr. Neil Pringle, appointed as a Member of the Boundary Commission for England, effective from 1 July 2009 until 30 June 2014.

Rome I Regulation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"I am today announcing the United Kingdom's participation in the European Community Regulation, on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome I). The regulation will provide for uniform choice of law rules in contract for all member states

(except Denmark) and will come into force on 17 December 2009. The decision to participate follows the United Kingdom's successful negotiation of the proposed regulation. The regulation now improves on the 1980 Rome convention and will give greater legal certainty for business and consumers in Europe.

I would also like to announce the publication of the response paper to the public consultation on whether the United Kingdom should participate in the Rome I Regulation. The consultation period ran from April to June 2008. The responses received to this consultation were almost unanimous in support of the United Kingdom's participation.

As a result of the positive response to the consultation, the United Kingdom notified the European Commission and the Council of its intention to participate in the Rome I Regulation. The Commission, on 22 December 2008, adopted a decision to extend the application of the Rome I Regulation to the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom will be required to implement the regulation by 17 December 2009, at the same time as all other participating member states.

Copies of the Rome I response paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses".

CABINET OFFICE

Olympic Funding

The Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell): The Olympic Funders' Group[1] met yesterday and agreed to allow the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) to access £394 million of funders' contingency. This decision provides £68 million, to meet the funding requirements of the International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC), and £326 million to support the construction of the Olympic village. The overall £9.325 billion public sector funding package remains unchanged.

As a result of good progress being made by the ODA, this investment is affordable from the overall contingency funds available and the contingency provision still available exceeds the assessed value of remaining risks. Alongside other contingency allocations, this means that around £1.5 billion of contingency funds remain available. The additional funding required is due to the shortage of private sector funding and the deterioration in the property market as a result of the current global economic downturn.

IBC/MPC

The IBC/MPC is still planned to be built as two permanent structures, with some temporary elements for games-time, based in Hackney in the north-west corner of the Olympic park as originally planned.

The IBC/MPC will accommodate 20,000 broadcasters and journalists in 2012. It is anticipated that it will contribute to a strong employment legacy post 2012 for the area.

The overall cost of the venue has reduced from £380 million to a new budget of £355 million. The original budget assumed a private sector contribution of £160 million which is no longer available, with £220 million from the ODA budget. As a result, £68 million of funders' contingency is being provided to bridge the funding gap. This allocation by funders is in addition to £67 million that is being made available from ODA Programme Contingency[2], to provide a total budget of £355 million.

The public sector will retain ownership of the asset and the ability to bring in private sector funding at a later stage. The new budget includes funding to ensure that the buildings left in legacy have the flexibility to be adapted to a wide range of uses, to maximise the potential employment opportunities after the games.

Village

The Olympic village is planned to have up to 3,000 apartments, fewer than in original plans, but the IOC requirements for athletes during the games can still be met with this reduced number. The village will house up to 17,000 athletes during the Olympics and over 6,000 during the Paralympics.

The funders' group have agreed to allow the ODA access to a further £231 million in contingency, to maintain the momentum of the project while discussions on private sector financing continue, following the agreement last year that the ODA could spend an initial £95 million this financial year. The total contingency for the village is therefore £326 million.

The ODA is continuing to negotiate with Lend Lease (the anticipated private developer), and the banks, in terms of the private investment for the Olympic village, and this decision on the funding available will enable good progress to continue to be made on site. Negotiations are also continuing with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), in relation to the provision of affordable housing, which also contributes to the funding of the overall project.

The Olympic village will provide up to 3,000 homes after the games, of which around 30 per cent. will be affordable, creating a core part of the legacy plans for the future regeneration of the Lower Lea valley.

Contingency funds available

The £9.325 billion public sector funding package announced in March 2007 included £2.7 billion of contingency. Some £0.5 billion was released to ODA when its baseline budget was confirmed at the end of 2007, and £0.238 billion was allocated as contingency for security. Some £2 billion of contingency therefore remained available for the ODA. Further details on the total public sector funding package and the ODA baseline budget is available from the "London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report: January 2008".

Of the £2 billion remaining available in the baseline budget, only £35 million (as set out in the table below) has been allocated to projects other than the village and IBC/MPC. Taken together with the decisions now being announced, the ODA have now, in total, been given access to around 25 per cent. of the £2 billion contingency remaining at the time of the baseline budget, leaving around £1.5 billion of contingency remaining available.

Part of the funding required is controlled by the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD) and the OLD board will consider the issue in due course.

A full picture on the contingency released for other projects, and an update on the overall picture across the programme, will be contained within the next 2012 annual report due to be published next month.

[1]The Ministerial Funders' Group is Chaired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Alistair Darling), and also consists of the Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Yvette Cooper), Minister for the Olympics (Tessa Jowell), Culture Secretary (Andy Burnham), Communities Secretary (Hazel Blears) and Transport Secretary (Geoff Hoon). The Mayor of London attends but is not a member.

[2]Programme contingency is for risks managed by the ODA, in relation to delivering a programme of projects on this scale, on a tightly constrained site, against an immovable deadline. Funders' contingency is to cover other risks, beyond the project and programme level—principally risks outside the control of the ODA.

Previously Agreed Contingency Releases

	Funders' Contingency £m	*Programme Contingency* £m	*Total* £m
Various - balance of funding required after savings -see below		21.5	
Olympic Stadium (roof steel strengthening)		8.2	
Handball Arena (acoustics and HD lighting)		2.3	
Handball Area (increased seating capacity)	2.4		
Olympic Stadium (resilience)	0.7		
Totals	3.1	32.0	35.1

The £21.5 million programme contingency referred to above was released in September 2008, as a result of the net balance of funding required following:

budget increases required on a number of projects, including powerlines and legacy requirements for the aquatics centre, and new budgets for sustainability and technical reviews;

savings arising on various other projects including: enabling works, various transport projects and structures bridges and highways.

PRIME MINISTER

Council of Europe/Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Lord Chidgey has been appointed as a full member of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union in place of Lord Russell-Johnston.

Petitions

Monday 12 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Health Services (Cornwall)

The Petition of residents of Cornwall, and others,

Declares the Petitioners' concern that the Pharmacy White Paper could result in many rural practices having to stop dispensing medicines to their patients; and further declares that the dispensing of medicines by such practices is often vital to patients who live in more isolated areas.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to protect the rural dispensing of medicines.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mark Prisk, Official Report,* 19 November 2008; Vol. 483, c. 333.]

[P000289]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The consultation on a number of proposals for legislative and structural reform to National Health Service pharmaceutical services arising from the White Paper *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future* closed on 20th November 2008.

As part of this consultation, we put forward options for possible reform of GP dispensing arrangements on which we sought views. We are aware of the strength of the responses we received on the various options for amending the criteria for dispensing by doctors. We have taken into account the views expressed and have announced that there will be no change to the current arrangements on GPs dispensing medicines to their patients.

JUSTICE

Criminal Convictions

The Petition of Phil Faber and others,

Declares that too many people are wrongly convicted because the law allows too much weight to be given to the word of one or more people, without other more tangible evidence to support the conviction; believes it is wrong that the jury only have to be persuaded that the defendant is guilty, and that this leaves the system open to abuse and puts people at risk of being convicted because someone has lied to the court or is innocently wrong in their assertions, and the person who tells the lie and secures the conviction can then claim compensation from the Criminal Injury Compensation Board.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to ensure that people are not normally convicted when the only evidence is the word of one or more persons.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report,* 22 October 2008; Vol. 481, c. 416.]

[P000278]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government is satisfied that the law provides adequate safeguards for those accused of an offence where the evidence is uncorroborated and has the following observations to make.

Burden and standard of Proof

One of the key features of a criminal trial is that the defence have the opportunity to test the prosecution's evidence by cross-examination. Furthermore, in criminal proceedings the prosecution must prove that the accused is guilty beyond reasonable doubt—a very high standard of proof. Additionally the judge has the discretion, where the evidence is uncorroborated and there are concerns that it is unreliable, to warn the jury to exercise caution whenever he or she considers it appropriate to do so, whether in respect of an accomplice or a complainant or any other witness.

Charging Decision

The Crown Prosecution Service takes decisions to prosecute with great care. When prosecutors make charging decisions they must apply the test in the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The evidential stage of the test requires that Crown Prosecutors must be satisfied that there is enough evidence to provide a "realistic prospect of conviction" against each defendant on each charge. Also when deciding whether there is enough evidence to prosecute, Crown Prosecutors must consider whether the evidence can be used and is reliable. Amongst the questions that they should consider is whether there are concerns over the accuracy or credibility of a witness.

Uncorroborated Evidence Care Warnings

Section 32 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 abolished the rule that a trial judge must warn the jury of the dangers of acting on the uncorroborated evidence of an alleged accomplice or victim of a sexual offence. However judges still retain the discretion to warn the jury to exercise caution whenever they consider it appropriate to do so, whether in respect of an accomplice or a complainant or any other witness.

Petitions

Wednesday 14 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Health Care (Sunderland)

The Petition of residents of Sunderland and others,

Declares that they support their doctors in urging the Government to listen to local people and invest in every practice in their city to improve the health care of all patients in Sunderland, rather than in a small number of new practices which may benefit only a small percentage of the population.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to review and further invest in the funding of all NHS GP practices in Sunderland to ensure that health care improvements benefit the whole population.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Bill Etherington, Official Report,* 8 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 380 .]

[P000292]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally.

The Government is investing record amounts in GP services (an increase of over 50 per cent. since 2003-04) and there is a record number of GPs (19 per cent. more than in 1997). This investment has secured major improvements in access to services and in the quality of care for people with long-term conditions. Public satisfaction with GP services is generally high.

Health Services (Wycombe)

The Petition of over fourteen hundred readers of the Bucks Free Press newspaper,

Declares that the Prime Minister should honour his pledge to listen to newspaper campaigns and the voice of the people and order a review of changes to services at Wycombe Hospital.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Prime Minister to order such a review.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Goodman, Official Report,* 17 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1201 .]

[P000293]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

Although the Department of Health provides strategic leadership to the NHS and social care organisations in England, it is for local NHS organisations to plan, develop and improve services for local people. Therefore, any proposals for improvements to services are matters to be decided locally.

South Central Strategic Health Authority reports that in 2004, NHS organisations in mid and south Buckinghamshire consulted the local population about proposed changes to consolidate specialist services (known locally as Shaping Health Services). We understand that this led to improvements in the provision of trauma, planned care, women's and children's services.

Pharmacy Services (Gloucestershire)

The Petition of residents of Cotswold and others,

Declares that the Government has made proposals to change the way pharmacy services are provided in the community; further declares that if the proposals were implemented, the dispensaries at the Moore Health Centre in Bourton-on-the Water and Westwoods Surgery in Northleach would be forced to close; notes that the undersigned value the service currently provided.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to retain the dispensaries at the Moore Health Centre in Bourton-on-the-Water and Westwoods Surgery in Northleach.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Official Report,* 17 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1201 .]

[P000299]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The consultation on a number of proposals for legislative and structural reform to National Health Service pharmaceutical services arising from the White Paper *Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future* closed on 20 November 2008.

As part of this consultation, we put forward options for possible reform of GP dispensing arrangements on which we sought views. We are aware of the strength of the responses we received on the various options for amending the criteria for dispensing by doctors. We have taken into account the views expressed and have announced that there will be no change to the current arrangements on GPs dispensing medicines to their patients.

Petitions

Thursday 15 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

JUSTICE

Dangerous Drivers

The Petition of the family of Aaron Palmer and concerned residents of Vale of Glamorgan and others,

Declares that there should be justice for families of the innocent people who have been killed or injured by drunk drivers; such as 18 year old Aaron Palmer who was knocked down by a drunk driver and killed on Boxing Day 2003. The Petitioners further declare that those found guilty of drink driving should risk having their driving licences permanently revoked.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to consider bringing forward legislation to ensure that drink drivers who have recklessly killed someone in a crash have their driving licences permanently revoked.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by John Smith, Official Report,* 17 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1201.]

[P000301]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Justice:

The Government strongly supports the need for stiff penalties for drink-driving and other bad driving which causes death. There was an extensive review and consultation exercise on road traffic offences involving bad driving in 2005, following which two new offences were included in the Road Safety Act 2006: causing death by careless driving, which has a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment; and causing death by driving when unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured, which has a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. Prior to the introduction of those new offences the maximum sentence for careless, uninsured or unlicensed drivers who caused death was a fine. Those offences complement the previously existing offences of causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, which have a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment. We believe that that provides an effective sentencing framework for drivers who cause death.

In July 2008 the Sentencing Guidelines Council issued a Definitive Guideline on sentencing for those offences. The Guideline makes clear that an offence will be considered more serious where there is evidence of driving impairment attributable to drink or drugs (where the presence of drink or drugs does not already form part of the definition of the offence).

For each offence, disqualification from driving is a mandatory part of the sentence (subject to very limited exceptions). An order that the disqualification continues until the offender passes an extended driving test is compulsory for those convicted of causing death by dangerous driving or careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, and discretionary in relation to the other two offences. Causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs carries a minimum disqualification of two years.

Disqualification for life is an option which is open to the courts. There will clearly be cases where very long disqualifications are justified by the circumstances of the offence and if the offender's record shows an irresponsible attitude to the use of vehicles. However, in a number of judgements the Court of Appeal have said that very long periods of disqualification can be counter-productive; that is because the prospect of losing a licence for a very long period, or of never being able to drive lawfully again, may only increase the temptation for offenders to ignore the ban and drive illegally. Very long disqualifications can also militate against rehabilitation, particularly if they affect job prospects. Disqualification for life is seen as a highly exceptional course, for example where the offender represents an extreme and indefinite danger to other road users.

In the light of the many considerations that must come into play in each case, and the often difficult balance that must be struck between the culpability of the offender and the impact on the victim, and between punishment and rehabilitation, we would be reluctant to limit the discretion of the courts in this area. Nevertheless, we are determined to ensure that, whatever the length of the disqualification; its effect is not eroded by time spent in custody for the offence. Provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill are designed to achieve that aim.

Petitions

Monday 19 January 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Learner Drivers (Brighton and Hove)

The Petition of driving instructors and their pupils, local to Brighton and Hove driving test centres,

Declares that the proposed closure of Brighton and Hove driving test centre by the Driving Standards Agency in order to re-locate to Burgess Hill multi-purpose test centre would be damaging, ill conceived and un-workable for the following reasons:

The Driving Standards Agency's Code of Practice on consultations on driving test centres states that: "In more densely populated areas of the country where the population is equal to or greater than 1, 250 persons per square kilometre the practical test centres should be located so that most customers travel no more than 7 miles to a DTC". In the Brighton area the population density is 3,023 persons per square kilometre, nearly two and a half times the level needed for centres to be located so that most customers travel less than seven miles. The consultation paper suggests that the distance from Burgess Hill to Brighton is only ten miles. The distance "as the Crow flies" is well over ten miles from Brighton sea front and by real roads nearly sixteen miles, well over double the Agency's recommended distance.

Burgess Hill offers nowhere near the same complexity of road layouts that Brighton and Hove does, therefore the driving tests carried out there will not support the Government's aim to improve the standard of driver training.

The driving test traffic from around 40 test routes from the Brighton and Hove centres will be combined with traffic from clients living in areas of mid Sussex onto just 12 routes. With the added traffic from pupils practising to familiarise themselves with the area, local traffic congestion will be intolerable and the efficient running of driving test centres highly unlikely. E.g. there is just one crossroads controlled by traffic lights. If all the tests are to assess performance at this point, and if each learner practises the junction three times before taking the test during working hours, then there will be one learner car at this junction approx every 90 seconds.

The environmental impact of the extended travel should be taken into account. E.g. approx 75 pupils a day will use Burgess Hill instead of Brighton and Hove. They will travel 20 miles extra each time on approximately 5 trips to Burgess Hill to practice and take the test = 93,600 visits per annum = 1,872,00 extra miles per annum. At 139g CO_2 per KM (e.g. Vauxhall Corsa 1.2) this represents almost 419 tonnes of unnecessary CO_2 emissions per annum.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to reject the Driving Standards Agency's request to close Brighton Driving Test Centre and Hove Driving Test Centre in order to re-locate to Burgess Hill Multi-purpose Test Centre and insist that at least one driving test centre in the city of Brighton and Hove is retained.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Celia Barlow, Official Report,* 18 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 17P .]

[P000294]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has a statutory responsibility for setting standards for theory and practical driving tests and assessing the standard of driving at the practical driving test. The Agency is also responsible for decisions as to the location of individual test centres.

DSA is a self-financing organisation, largely reliant upon test fee income for the provision of its services. This imposes a requirement for its services to be delivered efficiently so as to avoid unnecessary costs, which would have to be recovered from its customers via the driving test fee.

As part of the implementation arrangements for European Commission Directive 200/56/EC, which introduced more demanding manoeuvres for practical motorcycle tests, the Agency is establishing Multi-Purpose Test Centres (MPTCs). Burgess Hill was, after careful consideration, chosen as an appropriate site for a MPTC. Senior DSA staff assessed and confirmed the operational suitability of Burgess Hill as a MPTC site. The Agency is satisfied that the number of test routes available will be sufficient for the number of tests forecast to be conducted.

As a consequence of the decision to locate a MPTC at Burgess Hill, existing test centre provision in the wider area was reviewed. The subsequent decision to co-locate Brighton and Hove driving test centres at Burgess Hill MPTC was intended to maximise its utilisation.

DSA considered retaining a test centre in either Brighton or Hove. However, the Agency decided not to pursue this option, in part, because an under-utilised MPTC at Burgess Hill would compromise the objective of providing a cost effective service. Also, neither Brighton nor Hove driving test centre has the capacity to absorb the demand that would be displaced by the closure of the other. This would result in longer waiting times for tests in that area with some candidates then having little option but to book a test at Burgess Hill in order to obtain an early appointment.

The closure of Brighton and Hove driving test centres will result in candidates from the coastal strip having to travel further than 7 miles to take their test at Burgess Hill. But those candidates living further inland, who would previously have needed to travel to Brighton or Hove to take their tests, will have a shorter journey.

It should only be necessary for learner drivers to travel from Brighton or Hove to Burgess Hill for a limited number of pre-test familiarisation lessons. They should gain driving experience on a variety of roads, not simply by following recognised test routes.

DSA has service standards to be met wherever possible. In areas with a population density equal to (or more than) 1,250 persons per square kilometre, they state that most candidates should not have to travel more than 7 miles to a driving test centre. Therefore, in accordance with the DSA Code of Practice on Written Consultations, a public consultation commenced on 21 February and closed on 16 May 2008. The result of the consultation was announced on 31 October 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 January 2009

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 461W, on hon. Members: allowances, (1) what criteria govern the circumstances under which hon. Members may ask for an advance from the 2009-10 communication allowance allocation; [246729]

(2) from what date hon. Members will be able to ask for a communication allowance advance from the year 2010-11. [246730]

Chris Bryant: The rules on advances of the communications allowance are as set out in the House booklet "The Communications Allowance and the use of House stationery" and the Green Book.

Members who wish to make use of an advance of the allowance must contact the Department of Resources which considers all requests on their merit. In broad terms, any advance of money from a future year should be no more than 10 per cent. of the allowance and be to meet a non-recurring expenditure item.

Members must also demonstrate that they will be able to manage within the reduced cash ceiling in the following year and consent to the recovery of any advances from their salary or the resettlement grant if they cease to be a Member and their allowances are overspent.

To date no advance from the communications allowance for 2009-10 has been requested this year nor were any advances made last year.

Members: Pensions

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Leader of the House what procedures will be applied to over-payments of pensions to former hon. Members. [246276]

Chris Bryant: A variety of factors contributed to a significant number of pension payment errors by the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) related to the application of the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). These errors included payment of pension increases at the wrong level and payment of increases too early.

In 2006 the Chairman of the PCPF Trustees and the Leader of the House agreed to an independent person being appointed to advise on the handling of the overpayments, so as to ensure that the approach adopted was fair and consistent and in line with the best practice on the recovery of overpayments of public money.

The independent adviser recommended that full recovery action be taken for all overpayments made within the last six years, apart from:

overpayments of less than £500, unless the scheme member agreed to repay the monies voluntarily;

overpayments made to members who had since died and whose estates had been settled; and

other cases where legal considerations supported non-recovery.

All future payments to scheme members were corrected.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been overpaid on pensions to former hon. Members during the last three financial years; what the reasons were for this overpayment; and whether the amount overpaid will be recovered from recipients. [246277]

Chris Bryant: A variety of factors contributed to a significant number of pension payment errors by the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) related to the application of the guaranteed minimum pension (GMP). These errors included payment of pension increases at the wrong level and payment of increases too early.

Over more than 10 years, overpayments totalling some £402,000 were made to 177 scheme members, pensioners and widow(er)s.

87 scheme members were asked to make repayments, totalling some £185,000.

Some £253,000 has been written off, which includes a small proportion of the sum originally identified as recoverable.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Water Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what estimate the Church Commissioners have made of the aggregate effect of new water charges on the finances of Church of England churches. [245924]

Sir Stuart Bell: As I told my hon. Friend the Member for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman) on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 671, it is estimated that the new charges will cost Church of England churches and cathedrals around £5 million or more per annum. In addition, churches using the public sewers will also be liable for highways drainage contributions at an estimated cost of £10 million per annum.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission on what grounds the Boundary Committee for England decides which bodies it is prepared to meet during its consultations on local government structural reviews. [244853]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that when carrying out a review the Boundary Committee for England organises a series of roundtable discussions to which it invites the county council, the district councils, the parish and town councils in the county and other bodies who currently work closely with local government and who the committee considers would have views on how any future unitary pattern of local government could work.

The Commission further informs me that the committee also uses stakeholder lists provided by the councils in order to help identify other individuals, organisations and businesses.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission on what grounds Forest Heath district council, Waveney district council and St. Edmundsbury borough council have been refused a meeting with the Boundary Committee for England during the consultation period for local government structural review in Suffolk. [244856]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that at stages one and two of the review process the Boundary Committee arranged a series of meetings, both collectively and individually, with local authorities in Suffolk in which representatives from Forest Heath district council, Waveney district council and St. Edmundsbury borough council participated.

The Commission further informs me that it is the committee's policy to decline meeting requests from local authorities to discuss schemes not included in the committee's draft report.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment he has made of whether the consultation process undertaken by the Boundary Committee for England in regard to the structural review of local government in Suffolk has so far met all the criteria set out in the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation to date. [244855]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the consultation carried out by the Boundary Committee has met all the criteria set out in the Cabinet Office code of practice.

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what his policy is on whether the Boundary Committee for England's structural review of Suffolk local government should consider the views of the general public in the form of petitions as evidence in its deliberations. [244856]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the Boundary Committee will consider the views of all those who make representations to it, including those in the form of a petition.

However, the Commission also informs me that the guidance from the Secretary of State to which the committee must have regard states that

> "the volume of representations for or against a proposal should not of itself be considered to provide a definitive view of that proposal's merits".

Mr. Spring: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how much money the local government structural review in Suffolk has cost to date; how much of those costs are in respect of *(a)* the salaries of those conducting, *(b)* consultation and *(c)* other costs. [244857]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the structural review in Suffolk has to date cost £218,757. This can be broken down into the following areas of expenditure:

Category of expenditure	£
(a) Salaries (including local government consultant)	109,948
(b) Consultation	27,483
(c) Other Costs:	
Financial Consultants	65,791
Printing	11,794
Mapping	2,248
Couriers	363
Staff training	1,130
Total	218,757

Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what expert advisers have been commissioned by the Electoral Commission since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246967]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that where records are available this information is presented in the following tables. The process for engaging expert advisers was centralised in mid-September 2008 and therefore the records are complete only from this point forward.

The Electoral Commission further informs me that there is no statutory restriction on engaging expert advisers based on political activity. However, given the nature of some of the work expert advisers may be asked to undertake the Commission has since mid-September 2008 required all such advisers to complete a declaration of political activity. Prior to mid-September 2008 declarations of political activity were only required of some expert advisers.

Expert advisers hired after mid-September 2008

Adviser	*Purpose of appointment*
Elizabeth Butler (made political declaration)	Independent member of the Audit Committee providing external challenge support and advice
Caroline Morris (made political declaration)	To provide legal advice to the Boundary Committee for England and Party and Election Finance Directorate
Trevor Shepherd (made political declaration)	Development of enforcement policies and procedures
Steve Kingston (made political declaration)	Acting Head of Enforcement

Expert advisers hired before mid-September 2008

Adviser	*Purpose of appointment*
Louise Ferguson	Consultancy services on a project on the design of ballot papers
Nicole Smith (made political declaration)	Consultancy services on the Commission's response to the White Paper on regulation of Party Funding

Expert advisers hired before mid-September 2008

Adviser	*Purpose of appointment*
Justin Fisher (made political declaration)	Professional services to the Party and Election Finance directorate
George Fairbairn	Provision of advice, guidance and information to electoral administrators and other interested parties on electoral law and practice in Scotland
Denise Wheatley	Provision of advice relating to the Equality Scheme in Northern Ireland
Colin McDonald	Review of the Vote Scotland public awareness campaign
John Roberts	Legal advisor on parish orders
Terence Scarborough	Legal advisor on parish orders
Tessa Dunston	Legal advisor on parish orders
Graham Farrant	Mentoring of trainee practise advisers and project work on Electoral Administration
Peter Stanyon	Electoral Administration Bill guidance

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Electoral Commission has made of the proposals in the Political Parties and Elections Bill that political parties and other donees must take reasonable steps to verify the accuracy of the new declarations for donations over £200; and what assessment the Commission has made of the accuracy of the accompanying Ministry of Justice impact assessment on the issue. [246735]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the requirement for donation recipients to take all reasonable steps to verify declarations was deleted by Government amendments during the Public Bill Committee on the Political Parties and Elections Bill.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what he expects the level of revenue spending for *(a)* 11 to 16 provision and *(b)* 16 to 19 provision in school academies to be each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [245600]

Jim Knight: It is not possible to disaggregate 11-16 spend on academies from other age ranges without disproportionate expenditure. The following table provides the details of the current level of the academies revenue budget each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, and identifies specifically the sums within that budget transferred from the Department's 16-19 budget (which is mostly paid to the Learning and Skills Council at present) for sixth form provision. However, the sixth form figure excludes certain academies (former City Technology Colleges) never funded by the LSC.

The table is based on 55 academy openings in 2009 and 2010. As a result of the National Challenge, the number of actual openings will be greater, but are not yet fixed—although there are likely to be around 80 in 2009. Resources devoted to academies in 2009-10 and 2010-11 will rise accordingly, including the amounts transferred from the 16-19 budget and amounts recouped from local authority allocations of dedicated schools grant, as well as additions from the National Challenge budget for set-up costs.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Total revenue budget	853.03	1,188.04	1,567.85
Of which:			
resources transferred in from LSC budget for sixth forms	51.20	84.77	128.31

Academies: Sponsorship

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures apply when the lead sponsor of an academy withdraws from involvement after the academy has been established. [245243]

Jim Knight: If a sponsor wishes to withdraw involvement once an academy has been opened then the academy trust and DCSF will agree the best way forward. The prime consideration will be the needs of the pupils at the academy.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities he expects to join the Building Schools for the Future programme after 2010; and if he will make a statement. [245598]

Jim Knight: Including the interim wave we launched this summer, there are now 80 authorities started with projects the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The remaining authorities will enter the programme as soon as is practicable. I aim to announce the revised national programme in early 2009, using the revised expressions of interest which authorities submitted by 30 November. The most highly prioritised projects, which will access funding starting from 2011-12, should enter the programme later in 2009 where they demonstrate that they are ready to deliver.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children are in care in each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school in each of the principal seaside towns in England. [241502]

Beverley Hughes: Classifications that enable analysis at town level, including seaside towns, are not readily available therefore this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Data have been published by the Department in SFR—Statistical First Release—23/2008: "Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008". Table LAA1 of that publication provides information on the number of looked after children at 31 March by local authority for the last five years. This publication can be found on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were in care as a result of their mother's imprisonment in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of those children were subsequently returned to their mother's care; [244491]

(2) how many asylum-seeking children are in care; [244512]

(3) how many children in care were convicted of a crime in each of the last five years, broken down by type of crime. [244507]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children who were in care as a result of their mother's imprisonment and subsequently returned to their care is not held centrally by the Department.

However, information is collected on the number of children who were in care as a result of absent parenting and this can be found in table A1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of children looked after at 31 March for 2004 to 2008 by category of need. The reason for the parents' absence is not collected.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/FinalSFRTablesoct.xls

Information on the number of asylum-seeking children who are in care can be found in table A4, within the same SFR.

The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on the number of children looked after continuously for at least 12 months aged 10 or above convicted of a crime or subject to a final warning or reprimand can be found in table E. Information on the type of crime is not collected centrally.

Figures for 2002-04 are also published on the Department's website and are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DBA/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Children in Care: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1821-3W, on children in care: coastal areas, if he will make it his policy to collect data on looked-after children by *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower super output area in the principal seaside towns of England. [244405]

Beverley Hughes: We do not intend to collect data centrally on looked-after children by ward and lower super output area in the principal seaside towns of England.

In line with our commitments in the Local Government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities" we aim to

> "reduce radically the number of nationally-required local targets, performance indicators and reporting"

and to replace these with a

> "revised Local Area Agreement (LAA) process through which central Government and local partners will agree and manage a limited number of improvement targets for each local area".

However local authorities will often be collecting information at ward/town level to aid their priority setting and performance management arrangements.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his Statement of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 376, on safeguarding children, (1) what professional advice he was given regarding the publication of the serious case review; and from whom; [240898]

(2) on what legal basis he has decided he may not publish the serious case review for Baby P. [243435]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* The Department does not routinely publish advice to Ministers.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were on the Child Protection Register in the year ended March *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008. [241744]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1834W

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm081126/text/81126w0076.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions he has rejected the advice of the expert panel created in 2006 as to whether a person on the sex offenders' register should be employed to work with children; and if he will make a statement. [242144]

Beverley Hughes: There have been no occasions when the Secretary of State has rejected the advice of the expert panel on whether a person should be barred from working with children. The panel was established in January 2006. The panel's role in advising on ongoing List 99 cases was transferred to the new Independent Safeguarding Authority on 31 March 2008.

Any person who has been convicted or cautioned for a sexual offence against a child since 28 February 2007 has been automatically placed on List 99—these cases have not required the advice of the panel.

Children's Centres

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to take forward proposals for legislation affecting Sure Start Children's Centres following the recent public consultation exercise; and when he expects the findings of the consultation to be published. [245772]

Beverley Hughes: Yes, we plan to legislate for Sure Start Children's Centres as part of the forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill. The public consultation exercise 'Legislating for Sure Start Children's Centres' closed on 6 November and we received over 300 replies. An overwhelming 97 per cent. of respondents agreed with our proposal to give Sure Start Children's Centres a firm legislative basis. We will publish the consultation report on the Department's consultation website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

by the end of December.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on entertainment and hospitality in each year since 1997. [240626]

Ed Balls: The following table sets out spending on entertainment and hospitality in £ thousand for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessor Departments in the relevant years.

	£000
1996-97	24
1997-98	21
1998-99	31
1999-2000	21
2000-01	25
2001-02	11
2002-03	16
2003-04	20
2004-05	35
2005-06	45
2006-07	4
2007-08	16

The Department's policy on entertainment is in accordance with the principles of Treasury guidance in Managing Public Money and the handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Entertainment expenditure is limited to occasions when official business can best be transacted in that way. Personal entertainment, in the form of hospitality, is usually restricted to where senior managers (deputy director or above) are acting as host and expenditure must be approved in advance by a director or executive board member.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 326-7W, on departmental publications, which documents his Department has circulated in exceptional circumstances to schools since December 2004. [241592]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To retrieve the information as to which documents the Department has circulated to schools in exceptional circumstances since December 2004 can be obtained only at a disproportional cost.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1836W, on the education maintenance allowance, how many students have *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance, *(b)* successfully enrolled and *(c)* received at least one payment, broken down by (i) local authority and (ii) constituency. [244906]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he was kept informed of the number of students who had *(a)* applied for a notice of entitlement, *(b)* received a notice of entitlement, *(c)* enrolled on a course and *(d)* received a payment during his communications with the Learning and Skills Council about the administration of the education maintenance allowance. [244933]

Jim Knight: Since the beginning of September officials have received daily processing statistics, supplied by the contractor via the LSC, which have included each of the areas in question. These data have been relayed to Ministers in the regular updates they have received on the processing of education maintenance allowance applications.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how regularly he has met or had communication with the Learning and Skills Council to monitor the administration of education maintenance allowance payments. [244934]

Jim Knight: In response to the recent EMA delivery issues Ministers and officials have had direct contact with the LSC on a regular basis. This has included both correspondence and meetings. Since August Ministers have also received regular updates from officials, based upon their communication with the LSC. These updates have been received on a daily basis since the beginning of September.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the percentage of eligible people claiming education maintenance allowance in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [245024]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils are receiving hardship payments as a result of a delay in receiving their education maintenance allowance payments; and if he will make a statement. [245575]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA has transferred to Capita as from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many education maintenance allowance payments for 2008 he expects will have been made by 1 January 2009; how many such payments for 2007 had been made by 1 January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [245650]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA has transferred to Capita as from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Faith Schools

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools he and his predecessors have designated as being of a religious character in each of the last 10 years. [245852]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of brand new maintained faith schools that have opened in each of the last 10 years. All faith schools are designated as having a religious character under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Religious Character of schools (Designation Procedure) Regulations 1998.

	Number of new faith schools
1998	3
1999	6
2000	3
2001	6
2002	10
2003	10
2004	14
2005	12
2006	7
2007	7
2008	6
Total	84

These figures include former independent faith schools that have joined the maintained sector. They do not include new faith schools resulting from schools amalgamating or faith infant and junior schools amalgamating to be replaced by a primary school.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* Bedfordshire, *(b)* South Bedfordshire and *(c)* South West Bedfordshire constituency took one or more science GCSE in the latest year for which figures are available. [244067]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table for GCSE science entries in 2008:

	Total number of pupils at the end of KS4 entered for GCSE Science
Bedfordshire	4,683
South Bedfordshire	1,364
South West Bedfordshire	1,099

Note:
The data is provisional and subject to change.

Health Education: Skin Piercing

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to encourage schools to educate children and young people on the issues surrounding body piercing, with particular reference to the risk of infection. [244111]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pupils learn to assess and manage the element of risk in personal choices and situations as part of the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education. The programme of study focuses on teaching children and young people the skills to recognise risk, minimise harm and to make choices and decisions in a range of contexts, based on accurate information obtained through their own research. Schools may use topics such as body piercing to illustrate and develop the skills needed to deal with risky behaviour.

Higher Education: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government plan to take to increase funding for university *(a)* research and *(b)* staff costs. [245809]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Funding for higher education has increased by 24 per cent. in real terms since 1997 and will have increased by some 30 per cent. by 2010, with higher education research

funding set to rise to £1.9 billion by 2010-11 in addition to the funding that universities secure from research councils. Funding for staff and other costs are for universities to determine in the light of the overall level of resources available to them and the need to take sustainable decisions.

Intellectual Property Review

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to take forward recommendation 36 of the Gowers Review and match penalties for online and physical infringement of copyright. [245151]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Penalties for criminal copyright infringement must be proportionate to the harm caused to UK industries, so that they act as an effective deterrent. We have recently (31 October) completed a consultation on introducing exceptional summary maxima (above £5,000) in the magistrates courts for offences of online and physical copyright infringement.

Islam and Citizenship Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many mosque schools the Islam and citizenship education programme is being piloted; in which cities these schools are located; how the pilot will be evaluated; and when he expects the programme to be rolled out nationally. [245536]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Islam and citizenship education project is being piloted in 30 mosque schools in London, Bristol, Leicester, Bradford/Kirklees and Oldham/Rochdale. The Institute of Community Cohesion has been commissioned to evaluate the project. The draft lessons are freely available online to all mosque schools and will be updated in April 2009 following the end of piloting.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many comprehensive schools 50 per cent. or more of pupils achieved a modern languages GCSE at grade A* to C in 2007. [240883]

Jim Knight: In 278 comprehensive schools[1] 50 per cent. or more of the pupils achieved a modern language GCSE at A* to C in 2007.

The data were taken from the 2007 Achievement and Attainment Tables.

[1] Only schools with 10 or more pupils are included in the answer.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what marks were required in Key Stage 2 tests in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics to achieve a level (i) 4 and (ii) 5 in (A) 1999, (B) 2006, (C) 2007 and (D) 2008. [241851]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for administering national curriculum tests. The NAA has provided the following table of marks required in Key Stage 2 English and mathematics tests to achieve Level 4 and 5. NAA uses a range of statistical and judgmental procedures to ensure that the standards of performance required for the award of each level are maintained consistently from year to year. The content of each test changes every year, therefore different numbers of marks may be required in different years to achieve a certain level. Levels are anchored to the National Curriculum so that a level 4 achieved in one year represents the same level of performance as a level 4 achieved in any other year.

		(a) KS2 English						*(b) KS2 Maths*	
		(i) Level 4			*(ii) Level 5*			*(i) Level 4*	*(ii) Level 5*
		Reading	*Writing*	*Overall*	*Reading*	*Writing*	*Overall*		
(A)	1999	17	31	48	31	39	70	52	80
(B)	2006	18	25	43	33	37	70	46	78
(C)	2007	18	25	43	33	37	70	46	79
(D)	2008	18	25	43	32	37	69	45	78

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects a decision to be made on a replacement contractor for next year's key stage tests; and if he will make a statement. [245440]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) announced Edexcel as its preferred bidder for the one-year contract to deliver key stage 2 national curriculum tests for 2009 on 15 December 2008.

Pre-school Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many five-year-olds did not start formal education until the autumn term in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [244531]

Jim Knight: The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pupil Exclusions: Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of fixed period exclusions were given to pupils *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* who were children in care in (i) secondary and (ii) primary schools in each year since 1997. [241715]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the number of pupils with fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04, therefore data can only be provided for the last four school years. Information on the number of fixed period exclusions given to pupils with special educational needs is shown in the table.

Analysis of the number of exclusions of children on the school census, who were in-care at the time of the exclusion would incur disproportionate cost. The number of permanent exclusions of looked after children is however provided by the Department's Outcome Indicators for Looked After Children collection (OC2), which is available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml.

This collection does not cover fixed period collections.

Primary and state funded secondary schools[1,2]: Number and proportion of fixed period exclusions by special educational needs[3]—2003/04 to 2006/07[4,5]—England

	Maintained primary schools		*State funded secondary schools[2]*	
	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]*	*Number of exclusions*	*Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]*
2003/04[4]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	5,610	13.6	20,430	7.1
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	35,690	86.4	267,600	92.9
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	23,490	56.9	109,410	38.0
Pupils with no SEN	12,200	29.5	158,190	54.9
All pupils[8]	41,290	100.0	288,050	100.0
2004/05[4]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	5,730	13.1	21,980	6.7
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	37,990	86.9	307,700	93.3
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	24,860	56.9	124,980	37.9
Pupils with no SEN	13,130	30.0	182,710	55.4
All pupils[9]	43,720	100.0	329,680	100.0
2005/06[4,5]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	n/a	n/a	23,560	6.8
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	n/a	n/a	324,750	93.2
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	n/a	n/a	166,640	47.8
Pupils with no SEN	n/a	n/a	158,120	45.4
All pupils[10]	n/a	n/a	348,310	100.0
2006/07[4]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	6,240	13.6	23,660	6.5
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	39,470	86.3	339,530	93.5
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	30,690	67.1	179,160	49.3
Pupils with no SEN	8,780	19.2	160,370	44.1
All pupils[11]	45,730	100.0	363,270	100.0

n/a = Not available

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes both CTCs and academies.

[3] The number of fixed period exclusions per SEN type expressed as a percentage of all fixed period exclusions per school type.

[4] In 2003/04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time via the Termly Exclusions Survey.

[5] For the 2005/06 school year, only information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was available.

[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.

[7] Includes pupils with no identified SEN and those pupils with SEN without statements.

[8] Totals include 12 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.

[9] Totals include two fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.

[10] Totals include 48 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.

[11] Totals include 140 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Schools: Admissions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to reduce the school drop-out rate in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [245020]

Jim Knight: The Government have put in place a number of actions to encourage and support young people to remain in learning beyond compulsory schooling. These include:

the September Guarantee, an offer of a suitable place in learning for all young people leaving Year 11, was extended this year for the first time to 17-year-olds, to support young people on short courses or who were NEET during the year to re-engage. Latest data shows that over 94 per cent. of 16-year-olds and almost 80 per cent. of this 17-year-old group received an offer of a place in learning this year;

a range of financial support is available to young people to help them continue in education or training. This includes education maintenance allowance, learner support funds, residential bursaries, Care to Learn and dance and drama awards;

the NEET strategy (November 2007) introduced a number of measures to increase participation including a duty on providers to notify Connexions when a young person drops out of learning, and encouraging providers to offer more flexible and responsive provision throughout the academic year.

The Learning and Skills Council has a specific responsibility to raise participation in each local area.

As a result of local and national action and support 78.7 per cent. of young people were in education and training at the end of 2007—the highest rate ever, whilst the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) reduced 1 percentage point from 10.4 per cent. in 2006 to 9.4 per cent. in 2007, the equivalent of 20,000 fewer young people NEET.

In the North East, 76 per cent. of 17-year-olds were in education and training at the end of 2006 (the latest date for which data are available). In 2007 the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the North East was 10.0 per cent. Data are not available for Tees Valley or Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland as the data cannot be broken down to area or constituency level.

Schools: Standards

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1865W, on schools: standards, to which national challenge school the answer refers. [244993]

Jim Knight: I will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and will place a copy of my response in the Library.

Sex and Relationships Education Steering Group

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of each piece of written evidence that has been presented to the Sex and Relationships Education Steering Group; and if he will make a statement; [245205]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of each piece of research which has been commissioned by the Sex and Relationship Education Steering Group; what the cost was of each; and if he will make a statement; [245206]

(3) how much has been spent by the Sex and Relationships Education Steering Group in each year since its establishment; and if he will make a statement; [244885]

(4) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had since January 2008 with the Roman Catholic church on material disseminated by his Department to Catholic schools on sex and relationship education; what views the Catholic church put forward in those discussions; and if he will make a statement. [244886]

Jim Knight: The Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) steering group was established in March 2008 and had its final meeting in October 2008, at which it signed-off its report and recommendations to Government. Steering group members were reimbursed travelling expenses, but were not paid a fee for participating in the review.

To inform its consideration of the issues, the steering group commissioned:

Two on-line surveys: one seeking young people's views on the SRE they had received at school; and the other seeking teachers' views on what was preventing more effective delivery of SRE. The young-people survey was supplemented with a residential event with a small group of UK Youth Parliament members to discuss issues in more detail. The administration of the surveys, the analysis of the results and facilitation of the residential event were undertaken by the Sex Education Forum, which was paid £13,625 to carry out this work; and

Two literature reviews: one which reviewed the existing evidence on parents' views on SRE; and one which reviewed the international evidence on the impact of SRE. These reviews were carried out free of charge by Professor Roger Ingham, from the Centre for Sexual Health Research, Department of Psychology, University of Southampton, who was a member of the SRE review steering group.

The total cost of the review was £18,630.

Presentations were made to the steering group, summarising the key findings of the on-line surveys and literature reviews. A copy of each presentation will be placed in the House of Commons Library. In addition, a number of individuals and organisations submitted evidence to an 'SRE Review' e-mail account that was established to allow those who were unable to be accommodated on the steering group itself, to submit views. These submissions were circulated to the SRE review steering group for their consideration. Copies of these submissions will also be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Oona Stannard, Chief Executive of the Catholic Education Service was a member of the SRE Review steering group and was in full agreement with the group's report and recommendations. Other than the SRE guidance published in 2000, and the non-statutory programmes of study for Personal Well-Being issued in 2007, the Government have not issued guidance to Catholic or other schools on SRE delivery. The resources that schools use to support delivery of their SRE programmes are determined by each individual school.

The Government published their response to the report by the SRE review steering group on 23 October. A copy of both the group's report and the Government response are available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13030

Social Services: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints were made against social services departments in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [244691]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. However, local authorities are required to keep a record of:

each representation/complaint received;

the outcome of each, that is, the decisions made in response to the representation/complaint and any action to be taken; and

whether there was compliance with the time limits.

Each local authority must produce an annual report drawing on this information. This report should not contain personal information that is identifiable about any individual complainant.

Young People: Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing, with particular regard to those recommendations concerning young people and adolescents; and if he will make a statement. [244012]

Beverley Hughes: We welcome the Foresight report 'Mental Capital and Wellbeing: Making the Most of Ourselves in the 21st Century', published in October 2008. The report's broad analysis and recommendations are very much in line with the approach in the Children's Plan. In particular, we welcome the distinction made in the report between the development of positive well-being and tackling of mental health conditions.

We are already taking forward key programmes of work that are highlighted within the report such as work around parenting, children's social and emotional skills and the early years foundation stage.

In addition, the Government's initial response to the final report of the independent review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, 'Children and Young People in Mind', published on 18 November, set out a strong package of proposals and action that are directly relevant to much of the Foresight report's findings. We have set up a National Advisory Council for children's mental health and psychological well-being to advise us on implementing the recommendations of the independent review of CAMHS report and hold us to account on progress. Services for vulnerable children have been identified as a key priority area for the implementation of the CAMHS review's recommendations.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Pay

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans there are to pay bonuses to staff at the Child Support Agency in respect of the present year. [242173]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what plans there are to pay bonuses to staff at the Child Support Agency in respect of the present year. [242173]

The Child Support Agency was an executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions until 31 October 2008 when responsibility for the Agency and its people transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. In this present year the Commission will operate bonus schemes similar to those already agreed when the Agency was part of the Department for Work and Pensions.

There are two bonus schemes: the individual performance bonus scheme and the special bonus scheme. Individual performance bonuses are based on annual appraisals markings and are awarded at the end of the operational year. Additional special bonuses can be awarded to an individual outside the annual appraisal system, to recognise and reward an exceptional personal or team achievement.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration is made of the implications for child poverty in second homes when debts to the Child Support Agency are enforced. [241925]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what consideration is made of the implications for child poverty in second homes when debts to the Child Support Agency are enforced. [241925]

Child maintenance debt is owed by non-resident parents to their children as a result of their failure to meet their financial responsibilities. If the non-resident parent has a second family with which he or she lives the children of that family are taken into account in the maintenance calculation and the non-resident parent's liability is adjusted accordingly. There is an over-riding duty to consider the welfare of the child in child support law and this extends to the responsibility the non-resident parent may have towards any second family. The Child Support Agency also takes into account representations of hardship from the non-resident parent when negotiating an arrears arrangement.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much uncollectable Child Support Agency arrears has been categorised as *(a)* probably and *(b)* possibly uncollectable, broken down by debt analysis type. [242175]

Kitty Usher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much uncollectable Child Support Agency arrears has been categorised as (a) probably and (b) possibly uncollectable broken down by debt analysis type. [242175]

The Agency undertakes an annual debt analysis exercise based on a sample of cases, to estimate the amount of debt assessed as collectable, and that which is deemed either possibly, or probably uncollectable. The results of this annual sample exercise are subject to review by the National Audit Office as part of their audit of the Agency's accounts. The estimate for the year ending March 2008 was published with the Agency's 2008 Annual Report and Accounts in July this year. A copy of the Annual Report and Accounts can be found in the House of Commons Library or on line at the following link:

http://www.csa.gov.uk/en/about/publications-corporate.asp#AnnRep

The latest estimate is also routinely published in Table 22 of the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics, and has been set out in the attached table for ease.

It should be noted that classing a debt as possibly or probably uncollectable does not mean the Agency will not take action in the future to collect any outstanding money. The Agency will continue to make every effort to ensure parents fulfil their financial responsibility to their children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency

	£ billion
Total gross child maintenance debt outstanding at March 2008	3.8
Of which:	
Possibly uncollectable[1]	0.1
Probably uncollectable[2]	2.2
Collectable[3]	1.5

[1] "Possibly uncollectable" debt refers to amounts outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed some uncertainty over whether it will be collected. The amounts are considered doubtful where, for example, payments have been infrequent or it has not been possible to establish an arrears agreement or impose a deduction of earning order.

[2] "Probably uncollectible" debt refers to the amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be very difficult to collect due, for example, to the lack of contact with, or the personal circumstance of, the non-resident parent. In many of these cases, the Agency has suspended recovery action until such time as the individual's circumstances change.

[3] "Collectable" debt refers to the amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be collected. This takes into account factors such as regular contact with the non-resident parent, where regular payments are being made or an arrears agreement has been set up.

Notes:

1. Figures are taken from the Agency's annual report and accounts and from table 22 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 billion.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many uncleared Child Support Agency applications there have been in each month since May 1997. [242190]

Kitty Usher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many uncleared Child Support Agency applications there have been in each month since May 1997. [242190]

Information on the number of uncleared cases is routinely published in Tables 1 and 2.1 and the Summary and Target sections of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library or online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

Table 1 provides the available information on old scheme cases, by quarter from May 1999, information prior to this date is not available. Table 2.1 provides the information requested for current and old scheme cases but not including cases cleared clerically, from March 2003 when the current scheme was introduced.

Under its three year Operational Improvement Plan, the Agency committed to reduce the number of current scheme applications to 90,000 by the end of March 2009. As of September 2008 the Agency had reduced the number of uncleared current scheme cases by 66% from 220,100 cases in March 2006 to 75,700 including cases cleared clerically.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many letters requesting payment of child maintenance arrears have been sent to non-resident parents by the Child Support Agency in each month in the last three years; [242191]

(2) how many requests for full settlement of outstanding arrears of child maintenance have been sent to non-resident parents by the Child Support Agency in each month in the last three years. [242194]

Kitty Usher: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department provides to its managers on the right of employees of the Department to request flexible working; and what estimate his Department has made of the extent to which its staff in offices across the country have taken up this right. [244139]

Jonathan Shaw: Departmental guidance supports managers by covering both the legislative requirement and the Department's application of its legislative requirement for employees to change the hours they work, the times they are required to be at work and also the ability to work from home.

At the end of October 2008, 35 per cent. (39,440) of employees in DWP were on part-time flexible working contracts. In addition there are employees who job share or work from home, either contractually or on an ad hoc basis.

Departmental Contracts

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many contracts his Department and its executive agencies have made with the training provider Inspire2Independence; and if he will make a statement; [245230]

(2) what steps Jobcentre Plus has taken to encourage the involvement of football clubs in Inspire2Independence's welfare to work programme; [245231]

(3) what assessment he has made of the performance of Inspire2Independence's football-related contracts with his Department and its agencies in *(a)* involving people outside the working population and *(b)* helping such people into work. [245232]

Jonathan Shaw: Inspire2Independence currently hold three DWP contracts for the delivery of welfare to work provision. The organisation plays a valuable role both in terms of delivering a range of welfare to work services and in helping develop activity to improve performance of welfare to work commercial services generally.

Jobcentre Plus has played no role in encouraging the involvement of football clubs in provision delivered by Inspire2Independence, though they are responsible for managing the referral of customers to provision. The "Coaching Academy" model developed by Inspire2Independence does make use of a number of football club facilities to deliver its services.

Inspire2Independence were given a challenging implementation plan and their performance against this is improving month by month. Their performance in November was in the top 25 per cent. of DWP welfare to work providers and overall they are achieving mid range performance.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether responsibility for data security is assigned at a senior level and included within relevant job descriptions in his Department; and if he will make a statement. [240332]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's Information Security Committee (a sub-committee of the Department's Executive Team) is responsible for information security issues across the Department. Operational responsibility for security is assigned to respective chief executives and heads of businesses. Other senior staff in the Department's agencies have specific responsibilities for promoting data security and report to their respective chief executives. Following the publication of the Cabinet Office's Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, specific senior civil servants across the Department have been designated as information asset owners who provide assurance to the Department's senior information risk owner that data assets are properly protected.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what independent assurance he has obtained on the adequacy of data security and information governance arrangements across his Department and its associated agencies. [240341]

Jonathan Shaw: Independent assurance on the adequacy of the Department's controls is provided from a range of sources including internal audit reviews conducted in accordance with governance arrangements that are overseen by the Departmental Audit Committee, comprising an independent chair and independent members.

In addition, new procedures introduced as part of Cabinet Office's review of data-handling procedures in Government, have led to the designation of information asset owners—senior staff—who provide assurance to the Department's senior information risk owner on the adequacy of the arrangements for the management of information assets. The departmental security officer, who is independent of the operational management chain, also provides an annual assessment on the prevailing level of security, and the consequent assurance that can be obtained across the broad range of security risks, including those relating to information.

These assurances, along with other information, will be used to inform the statement of internal control which will be published in the Department's resource account for the year ending 31 March 2009.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what formal data owners there are for each dataset held by his Department and its agencies; and if he will make a statement. [240815]

Jonathan Shaw: In accordance with the Cabinet Office's report on Guidance on Mandatory Roles: AO, SIRO, IAO (accounting officer, senior information risk owner and information asset owner) published in April 2008, the Department has appointed a senior information risk owner and information asset owners who will have responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Cabinet Office data handling report.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of *(a)* staff recruitment and management practices, *(b)* administrative processes and *(c)* technical controls in maintaining data security in his Department and its agencies. [241304]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department takes its responsibilities for data security very seriously. In the last year, the Department has made substantial and extensive improvements to its handling arrangements for such data including the implementation of the recommendations of the Cabinet Office review of data handling procedures in Government.

In respect of the specific information sought, the following measures have been introduced:

(a) Staff recruitment: the Department has introduced additional background checks on new recruits, including the checking of identity and criminal records.

(b) Administrative processes: new procedures have been introduced that have considerably tightened up the handling of information, including improvements in the way data is transferred across the Department, and exchanged with external partners. Staff have been provided with improved guidance; security and discipline policies are being reviewed and refreshed; and major steps have been taken to improve security awareness.

(c) Technical controls: all the Department's laptop computers have been encrypted, and strict IT controls implemented which prohibit the use of unencrypted media (memory sticks, disks, etc). Wherever possible, data is transferred electronically rather than relying on physical media.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* staff training programmes his Department has put in place on maintaining data security. [241305]

Jonathan Shaw: A wide range of new procedures has been developed and introduced, including implementation of encryption products for physical media and laptops, restrictions on the transfer of certain categories of information, and better control where paper documents are moved by courier services. All these changes have been supported by improved guidance to staff. In addition all new staff now undertake security awareness training as part of their routine induction. These activities are being supplemented by a concerted and significant campaign of staff awareness.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records his Department maintains in relation to the classes of data held by his Department and its agencies. [241391]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department is registered as a data controller in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and the records maintained in relation to personal data comply with that registration. A very wide range of data records are necessary to deliver the extensive range of services and benefits administered by the Department. Such records as are held will vary according to the particular requirements of the related purpose under the legislation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions *(a)* information and *(b)* data was (i) lost and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of recovering such losses. [244045]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 408W.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242019]

Mr. McNulty: The following table shows the number of staff within the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) who received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties within the last three years:

	Number of staff	*Details of gifts received*	*Estimated value of gifts (£)*	*From whom the gifts were received*
2006	1	12 bottles of wine	150	London Business School
2006	1	Leather Folder, pen and book	150	Booz Allen Hamilton

None of the aforementioned items were kept by the individual recipient but were retained by the Department and used for official purposes.

The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, and in departmental staff handbooks.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1960W, on departmental ICT, (1) how many individuals have been disciplined over the loss of the items referred to; [240827]

(2) what steps have been taken to reduce future losses of ICT equipment; [240828]

(3) how much has been spent trying to recover the missing items referred to; [240829]

(4) which of the items of ICT equipment recorded as lost or stolen had software protection installed; and if he will make a statement; [240860]

(5) what assessment he has made of the types of data held on the ICT equipment which has gone missing from his Department since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [240861]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department takes very seriously its responsibilities to safeguard personal and other sensitive data. In the last 12 months, a number of major changes have been made in the way that data is handled and stored, especially insofar as items of removable equipment (such as laptop computers and memory sticks) are concerned. Significant improvements have been introduced, including the widespread deployment of encryption.

The information about lost and stolen equipment, given in response to the question referred to, was obtained from centrally maintained records of security incidents. Detail is not available from these central records to indicate the nature of disciplinary action that was taken in individual cases. Such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, given that the bulk of these incidents occurred a number of years ago. However, the Department is currently reviewing its disciplinary policies to better reflect the importance which it attaches to the security of valuable assets and information.

Following the Cabinet Office Review of Data Handling Procedures in Government, the Department has designated senior staff as information asset owners, who are personally accountable for providing assurance in relation to the information assets within their respective business areas. Additional steps taken to reduce future losses include measures which prevent employees from copying information to removable media, except where this has been encrypted.

Information on the costs of seeking to recover earlier lost or stolen equipment and which of such items had software protection installed is not available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records his Department keeps of computer *(a)* software failures, *(b)* viruses, *(c)* hacking attacks and *(d)* denial of service attacks. [241311]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. Timms) gave the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 17W.

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many dedicated Jobcentre Plus *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers his Department employs. [240858]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus has no dedicated special advisers or press officers employed by the Department.

Their work is just one of the responsibilities looked after by the special advisers and press officers employed for the Department.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1207W, on speeches, how much Mr. Phil Collins has been paid for speech-writing services to his Department to date. [242051]

Jonathan Shaw: Nothing.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244381]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP treats temporary and permanent employees in the same way. All employees are paid on the basis of an annual salary and not an hourly rate. The appropriate starting salary is determined by grade and employees are normally recruited onto the minimum of their pay band. Progression up the pay band is based upon the annual pay review. It is possible for employees within a grade to be on different rates of pay but this is normally due to factors such as individual length of service or the effects of pay increases following previous promotion.

Departmental Press Releases

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many press releases his Department has issued in the last 12 months. [240859]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has issued 245 press notices in the last 12 months.

This includes ministerial press releases, policy announcements, statistical and analytical releases. The Department also issued press releases for Jobcentre Plus, Office for Disability Issues, Pensions, Disability and Carers Service and several advisory committees.

It also includes operational notes alerting the media to briefings and visits.

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242601]

James Purnell: I last used the train for official duties on Wednesday 3 December 2008.

Employment Services: Cancer

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department and its agencies provides on returning to work to those who have had cancer. [242862]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what information his Department and its agencies provides to those who have had cancer on returning to work. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

People with a health condition or disability, including those people who have had cancer, can get a range of information and support from Jobcentre Plus. Customers in receipt of incapacity benefits or the Employment and Support Allowance can access Pathways to Work, which offers a series of interviews with a specialist personal adviser, a condition management programme and the possibility of financial incentives when the customer returns to work. People making a fresh claim for incapacity benefits will be required to take part in Pathways to Work and existing customers can volunteer for the help available.

Customers in receipt of other benefits or no benefits, who have a disability that affects them in the workplace, can receive information and support from the Disability Employment Adviser. The Disability Employment Adviser can also provide access to a number of specialist programmes that can help them move into paid work, including, Work Preparation, Residential Training and WORKSTEP, a programme of supported employment.

Access to Work may also be available to those customers with a long term disability. Access to Work gives the customer and their employer advice and support with extra costs which may arise because of the customer's needs. The programme can provide grants towards the additional costs of travelling to work; providing Support Workers; adapting work premises, and providing special aids and equipment in the workplace. Disability Employment Advisers can signpost customers to Access to Work.

Customers have access to a variety of leaflets from jobcentres. In addition, information about the help that may be available to people with a health condition or disability is available on the internet at:

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or www.direct.gov.uk.

I hope this information's helpful.

Employment Services: Redundancy

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus is taking to assist people recently made redundant back into work. [240276]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps Jobcentre Plus is taking to assist people recently made redundant back into work. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A person who is made redundant and makes a claim to Jobseeker's Allowance is interviewed by one of our Personal Advisers, to explain the help and support available which is then tailored to their individual needs. They are helped to draw up a job plan and Jobseeker's Agreement, which is reviewed fortnightly. Jobseekers can also access job vacancies on our website and our electronic jobpoints, as well as contact our Jobseeker Direct telephone helpline.

We have also recently introduced a "Finding your way back to work" leaflet to help people understand what help is available, and a "Jobkit" to help those made redundant in preparing to find a new job.

Where a business announces a number of redundancies we provide our Rapid Response Service to support the employer and employees. This can involve a range of support, such as workplace briefings by Jobcentre staff, skills assessments, and advice on how to look for a new job. The budget for this service was doubled this year, from £3m to £6m, and will be doubled again next year to £12m. This will enable us to deal more effectively with situations involving 20 or more redundancies, or where there is a group of smaller redundancies in one locality.

We have also announced that more people who are made redundant will get help through Programme Centres. These provide people with different kinds of help such as help in CV-writing and gaining jobsearch skills. Access to Programme Centres was previously restricted to those furthest from the labour market. Advisers will now have the discretion to allow any customers to access this help as soon as they become unemployed. This will be useful for people who have been in work for a long time and have no recent experience of job hunting.

We are also extending the successful Local Employment Partnerships to provide help for newly redundant people. Through these, Jobcentre Plus is already working successfully with over 13,000 employers, and has helped over 70,000 people into work.

Employment Vacancies

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England at the latest date for which figures are available. [242678]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Jobcentre Plus vacancies in England, Hertfordshire local authority area and Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency as at October 2008

	Notified vacancies	*Live unfilled vacancies*
England	313,928	335,266
Hemel Hempstead Parliamentary Constituency	691	627
Hertfordshire Local Authority	5,742	5,443

Notes:
1. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Data are unrounded.
5. Figures cover only those vacancies advertised through Jobcentre Plus, and so will not capture all available vacancies. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

European Social Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the European Social Fund spending announced on 15 October 2008 and 4 November 2008 came from funds already in his Department's budget for the spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11. [244801]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The European social fund spending is additional to the funds in the Department's budget for the spending period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 474-5W, how many and what proportion of his Department's 8,950 customer-facing staff have received specific training on the changes to the eligibility rules for income support which came into effect in November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [241029]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, 145W.

Income Support: Mortgages

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Treasury Ministers on income support mortgage interest. [244807]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* We continue to work jointly with other Government Departments including HM Treasury to consider how best we can support those borrowers who may be facing difficulties.

In the pre-Budget report on 24 November, the Chancellor announced two further enhancements to the support that we provide to owner-occupiers through the income-related benefits. The standard rate of interest used in Support for Mortgage Interest will be fixed for six months at 6.08 per cent. for all customers who receive help with their mortgage repayments. And the capital limit up to which interest can be paid on eligible housing costs will increase from £100,000 to £200,000 for new, some repeat, and some existing customers from January.

Jobcentre Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the total net change in personnel in Jobcentre Plus in each of the next two calendar years. [245036]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what estimate has been made of the total net change in personnel in Jobcentre Plus in each of the next two calendar years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information on estimated changes in Jobcentre Plus personnel is currently unavailable in calendar years. Our workforce plans are prepared by financial year, which runs from April to March. For the 2009/10 year, current estimates are that there will be a net increase of around 6,000 full time equivalent staff. Plans for 2010/11 are under review in the light of the increase in 2009/10, and a firm figure is not yet available.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1993-4W, on Jobcentres, (1) how many Jobcentres were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year for which figures are available; [241039]

(2) for what reasons the number of Jobcentre Plus offices has decreased. [241041]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many Jobcentres were *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year for which figures are available, and for what reasons the number of Jobcentres has decreased.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am only able to provide information relating to Jobcentre Plus since its creation in April 2002.

The table below sets out *(a)* the number of newly transformed Jobcentres which have opened since April 2002 and *(b)* the number of offices which were open to the public and subsequently closed as part of Jobcentre Plus transformation. The majority of Jobcentre closures since April 2002 are a consequence of that transformation programme with a small number being attributable to service delivery reviews subsequently undertaken by Customer Service Directors.

	Transformed Jobcentres rolled out by Jobcentre Plus	*Jobcentre Plus offices open to the public and subsequently closed*
2002	12	2
2003	257	47
2004	217	95
2005	163	99
2006	142	157
2007	13	49
2008	4	54
Total	808	503

In common with most large, modern organisations the great majority of our services are now delivered through the telephone and internet. For example, to give customers more convenient access, we have more than half a million vacancies on-line at any time (our website receives close to one million job searches every working day), and new claims to benefit are predominantly taken by telephone with some taken on-line. We remain the largest office network in Government with 747 modern Jobcentres which are supported by 31 contact centres and 79 main benefit processing centres. This has brought our customer facing services together in a more coherent and integrated network and I believe Jobcentre Plus is well-placed to respond to the full range of economic conditions.

I have asked the Customer Service Directors in our Regions to review their service delivery plans for every Jobcentre Plus District in the light of the current economic conditions and welfare reform changes planned for the next two to three years. This exercise will be completed by early 2009. As an immediate measure, I have decided to suspend proposed further Jobcentre closures while the current economic uncertainties exist, which will allow us to increase our capacity to deliver services to those in need of help.

Jobcentre Plus: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the budget required for the Jobcentre Plus network in each of the next five years. [241457]

Kitty Ussher: The Department's published three-year plan is available in the Library and sets out the planned expenditure of Jobcentre Plus over the CSR2007. The Department will publish a revised plan before the end of the current financial year providing further details on future Jobcentre Plus expenditure.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1993-4W, on Jobcentres, how many people were employed in Jobcentres in each year for which figures are available. [241040]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, Official Report, columns 1993-4W, on Jobcentres, how many people were employed in Jobcentres in each year for which figures are available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The table shows the number of full time equivalents (FTEs) that have been identified as being employed within Jobcentres each year within the period April 2003 to March 2008. Information prior to April 2003 is not available.

	Number of FTE staff in Jobcentres
April 2003	33576.19
March 2004	36080.59
March 2005	40008.09
March 2006	40400.27
March 2007	26028.53
March 2008	27870.67

Notes:
1. Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount.
2. The figures quoted include all staff who have been identified as being employed within a Jobcentre. It does not include individuals in Social Security Offices or regional/district offices.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance applications received by Jobcentre Plus were from people who had claimed jobseeker's allowance within the previous *(a)* three, *(b)* six and *(c)* 12 months of the claim being made in each quarter of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [241004]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not routinely collected and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what activities qualify as work-type activity for the purposes of receiving jobseeker's allowance. [242361]

Mr. McNulty: In order for a person to qualify for jobseeker's allowance they must be available for, capable of, and actively seeking work.

Actively seeking work means that a person must carry out a reasonable number of activities, normally a minimum of three, every week in trying to secure work. At the beginning of a claim and at regular intervals thereafter, the customer will discuss with their adviser what employment they are looking for. They will then be required to actively seek work in whatever way is most appropriate for that type of employment and their individual circumstances. These activities will be agreed by both parties.

When considering the reasonableness of the activities, the adviser will take into account the customer's skills, qualifications and abilities, along with any personal limitations they may have. They will also consider how long the customer has been unemployed and the current availability of that work in the local labour market.

Examples of the types of activities a person may engage in are: speculative enquiries with employers; using all means available to locate suitable work, such as Jobseeker Direct, Jobpoints, internet, newspapers and magazines; registering with appropriate recruitment and employment agencies; and applying for all suitable jobs by the most appropriate means. This list is not exhaustive.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what courses were offered to claimants of jobseeker's allowance in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months; and what the cost was per person of each course completed. [243048]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what courses were offered to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance in the London borough of Bexley in the last 12 months and the cost per person of each course completed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I have enclosed a table which details the courses offered, with a brief description of each course, its duration, delivery location and the cost per customer of completing a course.

Courses available to customers in London Borough of Bexley within last 12 month period—contracted provision

Course	*Description*	*Duration of course*	*Delivery location*	*Cost per customer (£)*
Programme centres	Individually tailored job search for customers six months+ on JSA	13 weeks	PDRC Bexleyheath	367.30
Self-employment				
Stage 1	Initial assessment	One day	Bexley JCP	60.20
Stage 2	Completion of business case and preparation for S/E	Eight weeks	TBA between TNG and customer	354.60
Stage 3	Test Trading	26 weeks	TBA between TNG and customer	2,616.75
Independent Assessment	Basic skills assessment	One day	Greenwich Alliance	65.00
New deal programmes				
Gateway to Work[1]	Job search, advice and guidance, CV preparation.	Two weeks	CDG Eltham; CDG Greenwich; A4E Woolwich	786.35

Courses available to customers in London Borough of Bexley within last 12 month period—contracted provision

Course	*Description*	*Duration of course*	*Delivery location*	*Cost per customer (£)*
New Deal Mentoring	One-to-one support tailored to individual needs	Fortnightly sessions	CDG Greenwich	696.94
Sound Engineering and Music Provision	Preparing clients for career in music industry	13 weeks	Deptford	1,450.76
Management and Professional	Specialist provision for graduates and professional customers	13 weeks	CDG Croydon	1,920.17
ESOL	Support for clients with very limited English	13 weeks	CDG Eltham	3,847.77
Basic Skills Employability Training	Basic skills training, career development, work trails and work placements	26 weeks	Bromley Field Studies	3,847.77
Numeracy and Literacy	Numeracy and literacy training towards qualifications. Work placements and job search	26 weeks	CDG Eltham; A4E Woolwich	3,847.77
New deal FTET 18-24 years				
Business Administration	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	CDG Eltham	1,717.66
Retail and Customer Service	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	CDG Eltham; CDG Greenwich	1,717.66
Hospitality	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	A4E Woolwich	1,717.66
Security Guard Training	Tailored learning plans and work placements. SIA licence	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich	1,920.17
Construction and Motor Mechanics	Tailored learning plans and work placements. CSCS licence	13 weeks	Study Xpress Woolwich	2,122.69
Teaching Assistant[2]	Practical training and work placement	20 weeks	Twin Training Lewisham	2,643.29
ETF Band C	Work placements in occupational areas and job search	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich; A4E Woolwich	2,189.49
Horticulture ETF Band C	Horticulture skills and duties	13 weeks	Bromley Field Studies	2,189.49
VS Band B Admin, Retail, Leisure, Hospitality	Work placements and job search in occupational areas	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich; A4E Woolwich	2,031.51
VS Band C Management, Health Care and Media	Work placements and job search in occupational areas	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich; A4E Woolwich	2,189.49
New deal IAP Age 25+				
Business Administration	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	CDG Eltham	2,031.51
Retail and Customer Service	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	CDG Eltham; CDG Greenwich	2,031.51
Hospitality	Tailored learning plans, with work placements	13 weeks	A4E Woolwich	2,031.51
Security Guard Training	Tailored learning plans and work placements. SIA licence	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich	2,343.23
Health care and Public Services	Tailored learning plans and work placements	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich	2,189.49
Horticulture	Horticulture skills and duties	13 weeks	Bromley Field Studies	2,189.49
Construction and Motor Mechanics	Tailored learning plans and work placements. CSCS licence	13 weeks	Study Xpress Woolwich	2,343.23
Teaching Assistant[2]	Practical training and work placement	20 weeks	Twin Training Lewisham	2,643.29
Fork Lift	Practical training	13 weeks	CDG Greenwich	2,475.77
LGV Driving Cert C	Practical training	13 weeks	Training in Transport NW10 7AR	3,204.18
LGV Driving Cert CE	Practical training	13 weeks	Training in Transport NW10 7AR	4,197.67
ESF				
Hardest to help[3]	Personalised support modules, motivation and confidence building		Outreach at Bexley JCP	1,923.08
Intensive Job search	CV and application support		Outreach at Bexley JCP	1,853.96

[1] Available at six months for customers 18 to 24 years and at 18 months for customers 25 years+.
[2] Available from September 2008.
[3] Available from November 2008.
Abbreviations key:
FTET = Full Time Education Training
IAP = Intensive Activity Period
VS = Voluntary Sector
ETF = Environmental Task Force
ESF = European Social Fund
ESOL = English as a Second language
Providers:
CDG: Careers Development Group—New Deal prime contractor.
A4E, Bromley Field Studies, Study Xpress, and Twin Training—all subcontractors of CDG.
PDRC: Personal Development Resource Centre—programme centre prime contractor.

Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new cases have been brought to the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months; and how many of these cases the CSA has started maintenance payments. [243467]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many new cases were brought to the Child Support Agency (CSA) in the last 12 months; and in how many of these cases the CSA has started maintenance payments. [243467]

The information requested is provided in the attached table and is routinely published in tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The latest version is available in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp

It should be noted that in July 2008 compulsion to use the Agency was lifted for all new parents with care claiming income based benefits. Prior to this a proportion of new applications received from Jobcentre Plus were in fact change of circumstances to existing cases or are actually closed prior to a maintenance schedule being set up. These applications are included in the attached table.

As there can be a delay between the time an application has been assessed, and maintenance requested and the receipt of the first payment of maintenance a larger proportion of applications made in recent months will therefore not yet have started payment. The number of applications resulting in a payment for recent months will therefore increase over time, and these figures will be revised in future versions of the Quarterly Summary of Statistics.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of current scheme applications cleared each month and the number of those that have resulted in a maintenance payment being made

Month	*Applications cleared*	*Maintenance due*[8]	*Percentage*	*Payment received*	*Percentage*
October 2007	29,000	9,300	32	8,200	88
November 2007	29,800	10,000	34	8,900	89
December 2007	20,400	7,000	34	6,200	89
January 2008	27,900	8,800	32	7,900	90
February 2008	30,700	9,300	30	8,300	89
March 2008	27,000	9,000	33	7,900	88
April 2008	28,000	9,200	33	7,900	86
May 2008	26,400	8,500	32	7,300	86
June 2008	30,400	8,900	29	7,400	83
July 2008	31,900	8,100	25	[6]6,400	79
August 2008	[4]20,900	[5]5,100	24	[3]3,200	[5]63
September 2008	[4]15,300	[4]4,200	27	[3]1,500	[5]36

Notes:

1. Applications for the period include all applications from potential non-resident parents or parents with care as well as, for the period to 14 July 2008 all applications from Jobcentre Plus when a parent with care applies for benefits and their details are sent directly to the Agency. Many of these applications are in fact a change of circumstance on an existing case or are closed prior to a maintenance schedule being set up.
2. Applications resulting in a payment include cases both where a payment has been made through the Agency and where a maintenance direct agreement has been arranged between a non resident parent and parent with care.
3. This table consists of information already published in tables 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics.
4. From 14 July 2008, new benefit claimants were no longer compelled to use the Child Support Agency. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of applications and potential applications received from Jobcentre Plus and therefore the number of clearances.
5. A significant proportion of applications cleared and which have progressed to payments stage in August and September 2008 will not yet have received the first payment, the number of cases cleared in these months that subsequently receive payment will rise.
6. The figures in this table are a snapshot of the status of cases at the end of September 2008 and are therefore subject to revision.
7. This table counts applications for Child Support. Not all applications become live cases. Information on the number of cases that are progressed clerically is not included in this table.
8. Refers to cases assessed as initially having a positive maintenance liability, which also progress to payment stage, including Maintenance Direct Cases. It does not include cases initially assessed with a positive maintenance liability which are subsequently closed or reassessed as not having a maintenance liability.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission plans to take to speed up the enforcement process, with particular reference to non-compliant self-employed non-resident parents. [243883]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Committee plans to take to speed up the enforcement process, with particular reference to non-compliant self-employed non-resident parents. [243883]

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 will provide the Commission with tools to establish reliable collection as quickly as possible and enable it to streamline the enforcement process and take action at the earliest opportunity.

The Commission will be able to make deduction orders to administratively remove funds from bank accounts, either periodically or in a lump sum, without going to court. Deduction orders can be used in cases where a deduction from earnings order (currently the most important enforcement tool used by the Commission) cannot, for example because the non-resident parent is self-employed.

The requirement to apply to the courts for a liability order before taking enforcement action will be removed and replaced

with an administrative process; and the procedure for registering liability orders in the county court will be rationalised enabling swifter more effective enforcement action to be taken.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mental Health Services

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being, with particular reference to the costs to the benefits system of those with mental ill-health; and if he will make a statement. [244028]

Jonathan Shaw: In general, the Foresight report provided helpful reassurance that scientific evidence supports the welfare reforms the Government are and will be making. More specifically, as chapter 8 sets out, its findings fed into Professor Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the working population of Britain. The Government have accepted her recommendations and will be developing the first ever cross-Government national strategy for mental health and employment, which will help us improve work outcomes for people with mental health problems across the spectrum. This will incidentally contribute to benefit savings as well as their health and wellbeing.

National Insurance: Fraud

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of national insurance numbers which were used for fraudulent purposes in each of the last five years. [242172]

Mr. McNulty: The national insurance number (NINO) is a unique personal reference number used for tax, national insurance contributions, social security benefits, state pension, tax credit and student loan award purposes. The number links an individual with their tax payments and national insurance contributions to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions, and is needed to make a claim to benefit. Estimates of NINOs used fraudulently for all of these purposes are not available.

DWP has robust checks in place to prevent NINOs being used fraudulently within the benefit system. Where DWP identifies that a NINO has been used for attempted benefit fraud or where DWP is aware that a NINO may be vulnerable to fraudulent use, the relevant NINO record is annotated accordingly. Any subsequent benefit claim using that NINO would automatically be subjected to close scrutiny, and if appropriate, referral to DWP's Fraud Investigation Service.

The number of NINO accounts annotated for these reasons over the last five years is in the following table.

	Number of marked accounts
2003-04	2,341
2004-05	1,087
2005-06	2,521
2006-07	2,965
2007-08	3,234

New Deal Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what modelling his Department has conducted on economic and labour market conditions in assessing the *(a)* funding and *(b)* anticipated employment outcome of the flexible new deal contracts; and if he will make a statement. [244047]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, 2006W.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much he plans to spend on the pathways to work programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [243476]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Department for Work and Pensions has allocated around £1 billion in the pathways to work programme between 2008 and 2011. A breakdown of planned expenditure is in the table.

Pathways to Work planned expenditure

	£ million
2008-09	280
2009-10	380
2010-11	380

Notes:
1. Figures provided for 2008-09 are budgeted allocations based on invitations to tender. Actual spend will be reported in due course.
2. Figures provided for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are indicative allocations based on current assumptions and are subject to change.

Pathways to Work: Disabled

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provisions are in place for incapacity benefit and employment support allowance claimants participating in pathways to work to access specialist disability employment services. [244043]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus offers support to incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance customers participating in pathways to work to access specialist disability employment services through the advice and guidance provided by specialist incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance advisers, disability employment advisers in Jobcentre Plus offices and the provider in provider-led pathways to work districts.

These advisers provide support advice and guidance about what services are available, and suitable, for customers and how they can access them.

Pension Credit

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether restitution payments made to holocaust survivors are disregarded for the purposes of calculating entitlement to pension credit. [244953]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Lump sum payments made to compensate those who were slave labourers, forced labourers or suffered

personal injuries or property loss during World War II are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

In addition payments made to parents whose child died during the Second World War are fully disregarded when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

Social security pensions paid by the German or Austrian Government are fully taken into account. However pensions paid under special provisions by the German or Austrian Government to victims of National Socialist persecution are taken into account subject to a £10 disregard when calculating entitlement to pension credit.

Pension Credit: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed pension credit in Leeds West constituency in each year since 2005. [245281]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is in the following table.

Number of households recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Leeds, West parliamentary constituency

As at May each year	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
2005	4,580	5,440
2006	4,640	5,550
2007	4,610	5,510
2008	4,600	5,520

Notes:
1. The number of households in receipt are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much pension credit has been clawed back by his Department in each *(a)* month of 2007-08 and *(b)* of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [241217]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information in relation to pension credit overpayment recoveries for each month in 2007-08 is in the following table:

	£ million
2007-08	
April	2.3
May	2.2
June	2.4
July	2.4
August	2.5
September	2.5
October	3.2
November	2.9
December	2.4
January	2.5
February	2.5
March	2.2
Total	30.0

Note:
Rounded to the nearest decimal point.

In relation to pension credit overpayment recoveries in past years, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer the Minister of State, (Mr. McNulty) gave the hon. Member on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, volume 170, column 2014W .

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure *(a)* that those receiving payments from his Department may opt to use the Post Office card account on the same basis as any other method of payment and *(b)* that the process to select the option to use the Post Office card account is neutral in its effect as between alternative payment methods. [245472]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Opening a Post Office card account is already very straightforward and we have plans to make it even easier for customers by automating parts of the process. We provide information which helps customers choose the account which best meets their needs and circumstances, including making the card account easily available to those who need it. And more than 10,000 new Post Office card accounts are opened on average each month.

We have already made changes to the booklet being sent to existing cheque customers so that it explicitly refers to the Post Office card account. We have also updated the messages that staff use when speaking to customers to reflect the fact that the Post Office card account will now continue until at least 2015. Other communications material will be kept under review.

Poverty: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of disabled children living below the poverty line in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years; [242671]

(2) how many and what percentage of children in each age group in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were living in absolute poverty in each year since 1997. [242672]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in relative or absolute poverty at Government office region level. Information is therefore not available at parliamentary constituency or county level.

Poverty: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle child poverty in Leeds West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [245284]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2024W.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unemployment benefit claimants there were in each quarter of the last 30 years. [243470]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of processing *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carers' allowance was in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [244542]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table:

Cost of processing disability living allowance (DLA), attendance allowance (AA) and carer's allowance (CA)

£ million

Benefit	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DLA	127	132
AA	47	40
CA	31	26

Source:
Activity Based Management system

Social Security Benefits: Arrears

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's latest estimate is of the effect on its expenditure from changing the backdating period for *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* council tax benefit and *(c)* housing benefit; and if he will make a statement. [240521]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The proposal to change the allowed length of backdating from 12 months to three months was part of a wider package of pensions measures to increase take-up and make benefit processes simpler. Older people will be able to claim pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in one phone call without having to fill in, sign or return any claim forms. This will benefit thousands of pensioners often put off by complicated claim forms and the fear of large amounts of personal information being required. Over the long-term the package results in extra expenditure for pensioners, rising to £250 million per year by 2050.

For working age people, the Government's response to the Social Security Advisory Committee's consultation report, published on 15 September, recognised arguments presented by the committee on the potential effect of the changes to Housing benefit and council benefit backdating on vulnerable groups and announced that backdating for housing benefit for working age customers will move initially to 6 months rather than three months. Details of the estimated costs and savings associated with the original proposals in the wider package of measures can be found in the SSAC report.

Social Security Benefits: Cohabitation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria his Department and its agencies apply when determining whether a person receiving benefit is cohabiting with another person; and if he will make a statement. [244427]

Mr. McNulty: When deciding whether two people are living together as husband or wife or in a civil partnership (LTAHW/CP) a Decision Maker must take into account the whole of the customer's relationship with the other person. There is no single factor which can determine whether or not two people are LTAHW/CP; for example, it is important that a decision is not made solely on the basis of their financial arrangements.

Among the other factors to be considered will be the existence of a shared household, the stability of the relationship, responsibility for children and the existence of a sexual relationship.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of adults with autism claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit. [244041]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average clearance time for disability living allowance claims was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how many claims were cleared in a period longer than the average in each year. [244100]

Jonathan Shaw: Information about the actual average clearance time for disability living allowance (DLA) new claims is in the following table:

DLA new claims actual average clearance times

Days

	2006-07	*2007-08*
Achievement	36.8	36.0
Target	39	38

Source:
DLA/AA Legacy computer system

Information about the number of DLA new claims cleared in a period longer than the average for these years is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits were paid to nationals of *(a)* other EU and *(b)* non-EU countries and their families in each of the last 12 quarters, broken down by (i) county and (ii) category of benefit. [244475]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people reported benefit fraud online in each of the last three years; how many of those reports were made anonymously; how many such reports were followed up with an investigation; and how many successful prosecutions for benefit fraud there were over that period. [241157]

Mr. McNulty: Information for council tax and housing benefit is not available. The available information for DWP administered benefits is in the following table:

	Internet contacts	*Internet referrals*
2008-09[1]	84,852	81,063
2007-08	80,127	78,230
2006-07	71,01	69,866

[1] April 2008 to October 2008

Note:
The National Benefit Fraud Hotline only started systematically collecting management information on fraud referrals from the 2007-08 operational year.

All reports made to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline via telephone and internet can be made anonymously. No figures are available on the number of occasions when individuals have chosen to identify themselves when reporting their suspicions.

The information in the following table provides aggregated details of outcomes derived from all hotline referrals, which were then followed up by an investigation and how many were successfully prosecuted in the last three years. The outcome data are not currently split into telephone and internet categories.

The available information is in the following table:

Benefit Fraud Hotline outcomes, Great Britain

	2005-06[1]	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[2]
Investigations	62,886	51,458	54,284
Prosecutions	811	679	910
Convictions	723	533	664
Recoverable overpayments (£ million)	21	17	18

The following information is available for overall convictions during the same period:

	2005-06[1]	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*[2]
Overall convictions	8,858	6,878	6,107

Notes:
1. Figures for National Benefit Fraud Hotline outcomes from 2005 to 2007 include only FIBS (Fraud Information by Sector) data.
2. Figures for National Benefit Fraud Hotline outcomes for 2007-08 also include FRAIMS (Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System) figures with the exception of 'Convictions' as this information is not yet available.
3. The figures in all three tables above relate solely to DWP referrals and outcomes and do not include referrals sent to local authorities by NBFH nor their outcomes.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) convicted and (ii) received a custodial sentence in respect of an offence of benefit fraud in (A) each of the last three years and (B) each quarter of each of the last three years; for those people fined, what the average fine was; and how many people were dealt with by way of caution in the same period. [241158]

Mr. McNulty: Information on housing benefit fraud is not available broken down by either gender or by the number that received a custodial sentence.

The available information for total convictions, cautions and administrative penalties for housing benefit is in the following table.

Number of convictions, cautions and administrative penalties for housing benefit

	Convictions	*Cautions*	*Administrative penalties*
2004-05			
Q1	1,026	1,216	897
Q2	1,238	1,652	1,019
Q3	1,165	1,711	1,184
Q4	1,259	2,070	1,396
Year	4,688	6,649	4,496
2005-06			
Q1	1,443	1,925	1,264
Q2	1,449	2,327	1,662
Q3	1,542	2,087	1,502
Q4	1,800	3,369	1,771
Year	6,234	9,708	6,199
2006-07			
Q1	1,409	1,991	1,229
Q2	1,471	2,586	1,645
Q3	1,377	2,569	1,676
Q4	1,477	3,205	1,981
Year	5,734	10,351	6,531

Source:
Housing benefit administrative returns supplied by local authorities

For DWP-administered benefits, there is no information available prior to June 2007 on departmental systems which provides a break down by gender of convictions, custodial sentences, and court fines.

This information is now being captured on an individual case basis by the Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS) which was rolled-out on a region by region basis between June 2007 and February 2008.

However, this information cannot currently be extracted from FRAIMS at summary level.

The available information 2005-07 is as follows.

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, cautions and administrative penalties for benefit fraud in Great Britain

2005-06	*Convicted*	*Custodial*	*Cautions*	*Adpens*
Q1	2,055	113	3,025	2,657
Q2	2,024	88	2,488	3,116
Q3	1,789	87	2,607	2,561
Q4	2,235	102	2,423	2,536
Total	8,103	390	10,543	10,870

2006-07	*Convicted*	*Custodial*	*Cautions*	*Adpens*
Q1	1,972	222	3,282	2,773
Q2	1,790	146	3,221	2,771
Q3	1,408	137	2,970	2,325
Q4	1,708	108	2,503	1,941
Total	6,878	613	11,976	9,810

Source:
2006-07 figures are FIBS (Fraud Information by Sector) only.

For 2007-08 the available data are as follows.

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, cautions and administrative penalties for benefit fraud in Great Britain

2007-08	*Convicted*	*Custodial*	*Cautions*	*Adpens*
Q1	*1,729	*216	3,878	2,928
Q2	*1,831	*145	4,242	2,713
Q3	*1,429	*130	3,167	1,902
Q4	*546	*94	1,688	870

Numbers of convictions, custodial sentences, cautions and administrative penalties for benefit fraud in Great Britain

2007-08	Convicted	Custodial	Cautions	Admin
Total	*5,535	*585	12,975	8,413

Notes:
1. For 2007-08 figures marked with an asterisk ("*") are not yet available from FRAIMS. Therefore, the information for the four quarters represents FIBS data only. Although this information is recorded on individual cases, it cannot be extracted at a summary level. Work is currently being undertaken to enable this to be done.
2. The same applies to providing data on the number of persons being fined following conviction, although it is not envisaged that average fine values will be able to be generated. The amount of fine imposed is a matter for the courts
3. Information has been included in the above tables showing the number of Administrative Penalties issued.
4. Administrative Penalties are used for less serious cases of fraud; those where the overpayment is below £2,000. Formal cautions are designed to correct claimant behaviour by getting them to admit to the offence. Administrative Penalties, which became available through the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Act 1997, give the claimant the opportunity to avoid prosecution by paying a penalty of 30 per cent. of the overpayment, as well as having to repay the overpayment in full.

Source:
2007-08 figures are a combination of FIBS (Fraud Information by Sector) and FRAIMS (Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System) data.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which member of staff at Jobcentre Plus offices will carry out a claimant's first work-focused interview. [244044]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which member of staff at Jobcentre Plus offices will carry out a claimant's first work-focused interview. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

A Personal Adviser, skilled in dealing with the customer's specific requirements, will carry out a customer's first Work Focused Interview. For example, a lone parent moving from Income Support to Jobseekers Allowance will see a specialist lone parent adviser to take them through the new claims interview. Personal Advisors are well versed in the barriers customers may face when looking for work and they are able to offer appropriate tailored advice.

Unemployed: Voluntary Work

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment his Department has made of the effects on local communities of the long-term unemployed engaging in voluntary work; [242359]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the likelihood of long-term unemployed persons who engage in voluntary work returning to paid work thereafter; [242356]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of the long-term unemployed who have been engaged in voluntary work *(a)* since February 2008 and *(b)* during the last two years. [242936]

Mr. McNulty: We do not collect information about voluntary work, aside from when it is done as a mandatory part of a new deal programme, so we are not able to supply the figures requested.

The Government believe that voluntary activity can play an important role in helping unemployed people to keep in touch with the labour market. Voluntary work can also provide benefit recipients with skills and experience that may improve their chances of finding paid employment, and can improve social cohesion. However, there must be a proper balance between allowing benefit recipients to pursue voluntary activity, while at the same time encouraging them to retain a clear focus on moving off welfare into paid employment.

Recent research has looked at volunteering in the context of mandatory options in the new deals, including "The Longer Term Impact of the New Deal for Young People" (DWP working paper 23, 2008) and changes to benefit rules related to volunteering, "Volunteering and Availability for Work: An evaluation of the change to Jobseeker's Allowance regulations" (DWP working-age research report 190, 2004).

Copies of these reports are available in the Library.

Unemployment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has *(a)* taken since July 2008 and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to reduce levels of unemployment; what recent representations he has received about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [241159]

Mr. McNulty: The Government are doing all they can to support people who become unemployed and through Jobcentre Plus and the new deal we are offering more support to help individuals move back into work as quickly as possible. The pre-Budget report made available to DWP an additional £1.3 billion of funding which will ensure that over the next two years, through Jobcentre Plus and our private and voluntary providers, we not only maintain, but increase, the support we offer.

We have already doubled the resources available to the rapid response teams who offer advice and support to those affected by redundancy. These funds will be doubled again from April 2009. The support provided by these teams can include information about sources of alternative jobs within the labour market or help with applying for existing vacancies; on-site job shops and fairs; helping people draw-up CVs or brush-up their job search skills; and, where appropriate, job-focused training to help individuals develop skills needed within the local labour market or other support to overcome barriers to taking up a specific job offer, such as travel to work expenses.

The Government are also increasing their engagement with employers. Through Local Employment Partnerships, Jobcentre Plus is already working with employers across the country to help them meet their recruitment needs locally, and to help long-term unemployed customers find work. As announced in the pre-Budget report, LEPs will now be extended to cover the newly redundant and the Prime Minister will chair a National Employment Partnership comprising major private and public sector employers who will work with the Government to agree what more employers can do to help tackle rising unemployment.

The publication of the White Paper 'Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future' on 10 December 2008, CM 7506, also demonstrates the

Government's commitment to further reform to reduce welfare dependency and support more people into work. There are still many new job opportunities coming up all the time. Last month Jobcentre Plus took an average of 10,000 new vacancies every working day, with many more coming up through other recruitment channels. Together with the advice and support provided through Jobcentre Plus, this means that most of those who become unemployed can find another job quickly; over half of new claimants leave jobseeker's allowance within three months and around three quarters leave within six months.

Vacancies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employment vacancies there are in *(a)* Castle Point constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* London. [243812]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Jobcentre Plus vacancies in Castle Point parliamentary constituency, Essex and London as at October 2008

	Notified vacancies	*Live unfilled vacancies*
Castle Point Parliamentary Constituency	263	318
Essex	6,804	6,185
London	37,742	31,784

Notes:
1. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Data are unrounded.
5. Figures cover only those vacancies advertised through Jobcentre Plus, and so will not capture all available vacancies. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of job vacancies *(a)* in each region and *(b)* in Blaenau Gwent. [243872]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Number of vacancies in each region and nation and in Blaenau Gwent parliamentary constituency: as at October 2008

	Notified vacancies	*Live unfilled vacancies*
Blaenau Gwent	267	228
North East	19,238	14,397
North West	48,673	43,708
Yorkshire and The Humber	33,566	28,858
East Midlands	28,973	76,744
West Midlands	38,574	33,647
East	30,028	27,913
London	37,742	31,784
South East	45,305	41,539
South West	31,471	31,236
Wales	19,251	16,690
Scotland	33,511	28,375

Notes:
1. Interpretation of these data should take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market. A more detailed explanation is available on the nomis website.
2. Notified vacancies include any speculative placings recorded by Jobcentre Plus. Datasets from May 2006 may reflect substantially reduced levels of speculative placings as part of the notified series. Consequently, care should be taken in interpreting time-series data.
3. The stocks of unfilled vacancies reflect more accurately job opportunities available via Jobcentre Plus. In the case of unfilled vacancies, use of the figures on live vacancies is recommended (i.e. excluding suspended vacancies), and this is the default option. Live vacancies may still include some vacancies which have already been filled or are otherwise no longer open to recruits, due to natural lags in procedures for following up vacancies with employers.
4. Comprehensive estimates of all job vacancies (not just those notified to Jobcentre Plus) are available from the monthly ONS Vacancy Survey since April 2001, based on a sample of some 6,000 enterprises. However, the ONS survey is currently designed to provide national estimates only.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Vocational Training: Redundancy

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many on-site advice surgeries Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service has held in each region in each year since Jobcentre Plus was established. [241005]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many on-site advice surgeries Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service has held in each region in each year since Jobcentre Plus was established.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Employees of companies who have accepted offers of Rapid Response Service support are provided with advice through a number of channels including on-site advice surgeries. Figures for the number of on-site surgeries held are not collected.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) by what means his Department has informed employers of the existence of Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service since it was established; [241012]

(2) what steps *(a)* Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus staff take to identify companies with employees who may benefit from the rapid response service. [241014]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking by what means his Department has informed employers of the existence of Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service since it

was established and what steps (a) Jobcentre Plus's rapid response service and (b) Jobcentre Plus staff take to identify companies with employees who may benefit from the rapid response service. These fall within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The rapid response service was introduced in April 2002 and has been delivered through Jobcentre Plus in conjunction with a range of partners such as Regional Development Agencies, local authorities and the Learning and Skills Council in England, and equivalent bodies in Scotland and Wales, to help employees facing redundancies. As you know the Secretary of State announced recently an extension of the service.

Employers are made aware of the service in three main ways. First, Jobcentre Plus is informed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when employers notify redundancies of 20 or more employees. We contact each of these employers to discuss the range of support that Jobcentre Plus is able, with its partners, to offer employees, and to decide which measures will be helpful. Second, we provide information through channels that employers use regularly, including: the Jobcentre Plus website www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/employers, the websites of organisations who help to deliver the rapid response service to employers and a range of leaflets and business/trade media. Third, some employers receive an account management service from Jobcentre Plus in return for their commitment to helping our individual customers to find work. In that context, employers facing difficulties may discuss their needs directly with Jobcentre Plus and appropriate levels of support will be offered.

Jobcentre Plus now aims to contact and offer support to every employer which we learn is making 20 people or more redundant. We also make efforts to identify situations where employers are making fewer than 20 people redundant and to offer rapid response service-style support whenever we consider this likely to be the most effective way of helping the people involved.

Winter Fuel Payments

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many winter fuel payment cheques were issued in the last financial year; and how many of these were not cashed. [242846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In winter 2007-08 we made over 12 million winter fuel payments to over 8.5 million households. The vast majority of winter fuel payments are made automatically into bank accounts. Only a small proportion of people receive their winter fuel payment in the form of a cheque.

In winter 2007-08, 295,769 cheques were issued in respect of winter fuel payments and over 96 per cent. of these were cashed.

Winter Fuel Payments: Glasgow

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* Glasgow and *(b)* Glasgow South West he estimates will be eligible for cold weather payments in 2008-09. [243031]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The estimated number of households eligible for cold weather payments is not available by local authority or parliamentary constituency boundary, but only by weather station.

Winter Fuel Payments: Multiple Occupation

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints his Department has received regarding incorrect winter fuel payments being made to persons living in buildings which contain multiple self-contained flats in the last 12 months. [243844]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information is not available.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people have received an incorrect payment of winter fuel allowance because they were incorrectly assessed as living with another qualifying individual in a single building divided into multiple dwellings in the last 12 months; [243019]

(2) what steps he has taken to ensure that people living in properties divided into multiple dwellings receive the correct rate of winter fuel payment. [243020]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each year, before winter fuel payments are made, the DWP carries out a complex data matching process involving around 18 million records. The aim is to determine or confirm personal circumstances and calculate the payment amount due.

The data matching exercise identifies any issues, including those relating to household arrangements. Issues often arise when customers provide incomplete addresses, for example they may omit a flat number. If DWP identify large numbers of people residing at the same address action is taken to try to identify if it is a multiple dwelling address.

If a customer contacts the Department because they feel their winter fuel payment is for the wrong amount, the position is checked and the payment corrected if necessary. Out of 12 million payments in 2007-08 less than a quarter of 1 per cent. of individuals received a top up due to incorrect payments.

Waste Management: Local Authorities

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will require the Health and Safety Executive to provide guidance to local authorities on the most suitable type of waste management treatment facility taking account of the geography and topology of the area and the nearness to residents of the facility. [244218]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* While general guidance has been provided by both bodies, it is not within the remit either of the Health and Safety Executive or the Environment Agency to provide guidance to individual local authorities on what is the suitable type of waste management treatment facility for their area.

Specific guidance for local authorities through Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10) is also to be taken into account by waste planning authorities and forms part of the national waste management plan for the UK.

PRIME MINISTER

Banks

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates he held meetings with *(a)* HBOS, *(b)* Nationwide, *(c)* Abbey, *(d)* Lloyds TSB, *(e)* Northern Rock, *(f)*

Barclays, *(g)* RBS and *(h)* HSBC prior to the announcement of the Government's repossessions policy on 3 December 2008; and what matters were discussed. [245609]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Office had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244713]

The Prime Minister: Since January 2008, my Office has received approximately 500,000 pieces of correspondence. My Office aims to deal with correspondence within the 15 working day time frame.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Prime Minister what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Office since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246970]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. Updated information will be published in the usual way.

Imperial College London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 279W, on Imperial College London, whether the audience at the question and answer session he held on 27 October 2008 was selected solely at the discretion of Imperial College. [245780]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 279W.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether he discussed the Iranian state shareholding in the French state Uranium Enrichment Company during the visit of President Sarkozy on 8 December 2008. [244884]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Sarkozy. I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with President Sarkozy and President Barroso on 8 December. A transcript is available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17733

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Israel: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters concerning *(a)* Israel's nuclear weapons arsenal and *(b)* Iran's nuclear programme, he discussed in his meeting with his Israeli counterpart on 16 December 2008. [245675]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with Prime Minister Olmert.

Right of Search

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister whether he or any Minister, civil servant or adviser sought to influence the content of Mr. Speaker's statement of 3 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1-3. [246591]

The Prime Minister: The statement was entirely a matter for Mr. Speaker.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242920]

Mr. Simon: Between the creation of the Department in June 2007 and November 2008, no civil servants have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing or deliberately disclosing information. There have been no cases of data loss or disclosure of sensitive information requiring investigation.

The Department takes any breach of security very seriously and, in some cases, may take disciplinary action against those who commit such breaches. Policies and guidance on IT security are available to all staff on the departmental intranet. Logging into the Department's IT system requires that staff must agree to abide by these policies.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244613]

Mr. Simon: The Government's Delivery Plan for "Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate", published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the Delivery Plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246022]

Mr. Simon: In the Department, the employee breakdown is as follows:

(a) 457 male (52.3 per cent. of all staff);

(b) 417 female (47.7 per cent. of all staff);

(c) 45 staff declared from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds (5.1 per cent. of all staff), 376 not known (43.0 per cent.), 13 prefer not to say (1.5 per cent.);

(d) 39 declared a disability (4.5 per cent.), 515 not known (58.9 per cent.), 19 prefer not to say (2.2 per cent.);

(e) 13 declared not heterosexual (1.5 per cent.), 238 sexual orientation not known (27.2 per cent.), 29 prefer not to say (3.3 per cent.);

(f) Three staff declared Buddhist (0.6 per cent.), 192 Christian (22.0 per cent.), three Hindu (0.3 per cent.), one Jewish (0.1 per cent.), five Muslim (0.6 per cent.), five other religion (0.6 per cent.), 119 no religion (13.6 per cent.), 511 not known (58.5 per cent.), 35 prefer not to say (4.0 per cent.).

Departmental records on the numbers of BME staff are based on voluntary self-declaration on the basis of the categories used in the 2001 census. Records on the numbers of disabled staff are also solely based on voluntary, self-declaration of being a disabled person as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act, and not connected in any way to a formal register of disability. Similarly, records on religion or beliefs are solely based on voluntary, self-declaration.

The Department has a Diversity Action Plan and is currently developing its diversity targets.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties since his Department's creation; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242025]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007.

The Department keeps a record of all gifts received.

No member of staff has received a gift valued at £100 or more.

The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, and in departmental staff handbooks.

English Language: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department are employed in *(a)* administering the English for Speakers of Other Languages programme and *(b)* developing content for citizenship courses; and what estimate he has made of the cost of employing such staff in (a) 2008-09 and (b) each of the next two financial years. [245584]

Mr. Simon: The team responsible for English for Speakers of Other Languages policy has evolved during 2008 so I am unable to provide a precise costing. This figure is an estimation based on the current cadre of five full-time equivalent staff at a cost of £290,000 for 2008-09. This does not include any Learning and Skills Council resource. Future costs are not provided as these would be predicated on future pay remits agreed with HM Treasury and the cadre may change according to policy priorities.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills does not employ staff to develop content for citizenship courses. Citizenship materials are developed to meet Home Office criteria and content for these courses are developed by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 24 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 248W, on English language: education, when he expects to publish the independent impact assessment report on the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) measures introduced in August 2007; and what the expected cost of provision of ESOL is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* the two following years. [245706]

Mr. Simon: The Department commissioned an independent review of the changes made to ESOL fees in 2007 to inform any future policy decisions. This work is not yet concluded because the initial work necessitated further in-depth research to produce a more complete picture. No decision has yet been taken on publication.

The cost of provision of ESOL is expected to be in the region of £300 million in 2008-09 and this will be maintained at a similar level for the following two years.

Foreign Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* Swedish and *(b)* Danish nationals are engaged in full-time study in English universities. [245270]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006/07 academic year, the most recent year for which figures are available, there were 2,400 Swedish domiciled enrolments and 925 Danish domiciled enrolments on full-time courses at English higher education institutions.

The figures come from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record and cover enrolments to all levels study.

Higher Education: Charities

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much has been spent on the charitable research projects at higher education institutions which receive funding from the Charity Research Support Fund in each year since its creation; [246248]

(2) what the planned expenditure for the Charity Research Support Fund is for 2009-10. [246250]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides a Quality Related (QR) block grant for research to higher education institutions. The QR grant is determined by adding together a number of elements—the "charity support element" is calculated by reference to institutions' levels of charitable research income. The funding that arises from this calculation is distributed to institutions within their overall QR block grant rather than as a separate fund. It is for institutions that receive QR to determine how to use that funding in line with their own priorities.

The amount to be allocated to the charity support element for 2009-10 and any subsequent year will be determined by HEFCE in due course, having regard to the resources available for distribution at the time.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding has been provided by UK charities for *(a)* medical research and *(b)* cancer research in higher education institutions in each of the last five academic years; and what information his Department has on equivalent figures in other European countries for benchmarking purposes. [246249]

Mr. Lammy: Statistics on higher education institutions' income are collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Research income received by higher education institutions in England from UK-based charities for the last five academic years for which data are available is shown in the following table.

	Income (£ million)
2002/03	542
2003/04	577
2004/05	586
2005/06	610
2006/07	645

Information is not collected on the type of research that this income was used for.

The Department does not collect equivalent figures from other European countries.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the Higher Education Funding Council for England plans to publish its report on means to increase the capacity for teaching Islamic studies. [245586]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England has produced the following reports on their work to develop Islamic studies in the UK—all these reports can be found on its website at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/aboutus/vis/islamic/

1. Circular letter 03/2008 provides information about the conference held in April 2008 on Islamic Studies.

2. Islamic Studies: current status and future prospects: November 2007

3. Islamic Studies: the way forward in the UK, April 2008

4. Desk based report: International approaches to Islamic Studies in Higher Education

5. Islamic Studies: Trends and profiles report September 2008

6. Sector Impact Assessment of Islamic Studies

7. Board Paper B93 September 2008 sets out HEFCE's proposals for taking forward the development of Islamic Studies in the UK.

No further reports are due at this time.

Higher Education: Job Evaluation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what appeals process is available for academic staff who dispute their gradings under the higher educational role analysis evaluation process; and if he will make a statement. [246284]

Mr. Lammy: As universities are autonomous, independent bodies they are responsible for determining their own academic and administrative affairs, including terms and conditions for their staff and staff grading structures. The Government play no part in determining grading structures for higher education staff. As such any appeals process for staff under this or any other job evaluation process would be a matter for the universities to determine in consultation with their recognised trade unions.

Higher Education: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many new higher education students in *(a)* Leeds West and *(b)* Leeds metropolitan district will receive a maintenance grant in 2008-09. [245433]

Mr. Lammy: Reliable information is not available at constituency level.

In academic year 2007/08, there were 2,520 new university entrants from the Leeds metropolitan district who received a maintenance grant or special support grant.

Information for the 2008/09 academic year is not yet complete. Students can apply for support up to nine months after the start of their course, and in exceptional circumstances, this limit can be extended. Applications generally take six to eight weeks to process.

The Statistical First Release published on 28 November shows the provisional number of new students successfully applying for support in England in academic year 2008/09 under the 2008/09 entry regulations reached 278,100 by mid-November 2008. The provisional distribution shows that 40 per cent. of these students received the full maintenance grant of £2,835 and 29 per cent. received a partial maintenance grant. 31 per cent. received no maintenance grant. No specific information is available yet for the Leeds metropolitan district.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what buildings are occupied by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); what the cost of occupying these buildings is in 2008-09; when each of the lease agreements for occupying these buildings expires; and to what use those buildings will be put following the abolition of the Learning and Skills Council in 2010. [246251]

Mr. Simon: A list of buildings occupied by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the year of expiry of lease agreements are provided in the following table. The total cost of the LSC's property portfolio for 2008-09 is £26.1 million. DIUS and DCSF are undertaking an assessment of the detailed options, costs and benefits for the estate to support effective delivery by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA).

We have already announced that the YPLA and SFA headquarters will be co-located in Coventry.

Learning and Skills Council buildings

LSC office	*Building/city*	*Break or lease expiry*	*Year of lease expiry*
2009			
Surrey	Technology House, Woking	Lease Expiry	—
Bedfordshire	Woburn Court, Kempston,	Break Due	2011
Nottinghamshire	City Gate East, Nottingham	Licence	—
2010			
Greater Manchester	Arndale House, Manchester	Break Due	2015
London Central	Centre Point, London	Lease Expiry	—
Staffordshire	Festival Way, Stoke-on-Trent	Lease Expiry	—
Sussex	Princes House, Brighton	Break Due	2015
2011			
Kent and Medway	Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling	Lease Expiry	—
Lincolnshire and Rutland	Alpha Court, Lincoln	Lease Expiry	—
Leicestershire	17s Meridian East, Leicester	Lease Expiry	—
London East	Beaufoam House, London	Lease Expiry	—
Cambridgeshire	Stuart House, Peterborough	Lease Expiry	—
Hereford and Worcester	5 Brook Court, Worcester,	Break Due	2016
Humberside	4 Earls Court, Hull	Break Due	2016
2012			
Shropshire	Hollinswood House, Telford	Break Due	2017
Lancashire	Cirtgate, Preston	Break Due	2017
Greater Merseyside	The Plaza, Liverpool	Break Due	2017
Somerset	Kingston House, Taunton,	Break Due	2016
National Office	Security House, Coventry,	Break Due	2017
Tees Valley/County Durham	Wynyard House, Billingham	Break Due	2017
Black Country	Unit 6 and 7 Castle Court, Dudley	Break Due	2017
Derbyshire	1 Mallard Way, Derby	Lease Expiry	—
South Yorkshire	The Straddle, Sheffield	Break Due	2017
Norfolk	Lakeside 500, Norwich	Lease Expiry	2017
Cheshire and Warrington	Dalton House, Middlewich	Lease Expiry	—
Coventry and Warwickshire	Oak Tree Court, Coventry	Lease Expiry	—
2013			
West Yorkshire	Mercury House, Bradford	Break Due	2019
2014			
Wiltshire and Swindon	The Bora Building, Swindon	Lease Expiry	—
Suffolk	Felaw Maltings, Ipswich,	Lease Expiry	—
Berkshire	Pacific House, Reading,	Lease Expiry	—
Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole	Provincial House, Bournemouth	Lease Expiry	—
West of England	St. Lawrence House, Bristol	Lease Expiry	—
2015			—
Tyne and Wear	Monogate House, Gateshead	Lease Expiry	—
London West	Central House, Hounslow	Lease Expiry	—
North Yorkshire	7 Pioneer Business Park, York	Lease Expiry	—
Devon and Cornwall	Felcot House, Plymouth	Lease Expiry	—
County Durham	Allergate House, Durham	Break Due	2019
Cumbria	Progress/Venture House, Workington	Lease Expiry	2020
2018			
Devon and Cornwall	Penhalgon House, Truro	Lease Expiry	—

Learning and Skills Council buildings

LSC office	*Building/city*	*Break or lease expiry*	*Year of lease expiry*
Essex	Redwing House, Chelmsford	Lease Expiry	—
London South	Canius House, Croydon	Lease Expiry	—
London North	Dumayne House, London	Lease Expiry	—
2017			
Gloucestershire	Conway House, Gloucester	Lease Expiry	—
Devon and Cornwall	Richmond Court, Exeter	Lease Expiry	—
2018			
Northamptonshire	Royal Pavilion, Northampton	Lease Expiry	—
Hertfordshire	Grosvenor Road, St. Albans	Lease Expiry	—
2020			
Hampshire and IOW	Eagle Point, Fareham	Lease Expiry	—
Milton Keynes	Latimer House, Kidlington	Lease Expiry	—
2021			
Birmingham and Solihull	NTI Building, Birmingham	Lease Expiry	—
2022			
National Office	Cheylesmore House North and South, Coventry	Lease Expiry	—

[1] Can vacate at any time.
Note:
Table arranged by date of break in lease or lease expiry date (whichever is sooner).

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff employed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) he expects will become employed by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Young People's Learning Agency, *(c)* the Skills Funding Agency and *(d)* the National Apprenticeship Service in 2010; and whether all current LSC staff will be offered alternative employment [246252]

Mr. Simon: We have identified that there will be some 3,300 full-time equivalents in 2010, which is in line with existing LSC staffing levels.

We expect to transfer around 1,000 posts to local authorities. This will be supported by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), a non-departmental public body which will have approximately 500 posts in total, with around 200 at the national office and 300 in the regions. The YPLA will support local authorities in their new role in the commissioning process and delivery of good outcomes for young people.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) will be an agency of DIUS and will have approximately 1,800 posts, including the 400 posts in the National Apprenticeship Service.

We are committed to retaining the expertise of LSC staff in the new arrangements. DCSF and DIUS officials are working with the LSC and wider further education sector to finalise the details of these plans and processes over the coming months.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether staff currently employed by the Learning and Skills Council will continue to be covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme if they become employed by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the Young People's Learning Agency, *(c)* the Skills Funding Agency and *(d)* the National Apprenticeships Service in 2010. [246272]

Mr. Simon: DIUS and DCSF are being guided by the Cabinet Office Staff Transfers in the Public Sector Statement of Practice (COSOP) in our approach to the treatment of LSC staff in this transfer of responsibilities under the Machinery of Government changes. This includes the principle that there should be appropriate arrangements to protect occupational pensions and the application of "A fair deal for Staff Pensions" (which sets out the policy on staff pensions that must be followed by Central Government Departments and Agencies, and which Ministers expect to be adopted by other public sector employers).

We expect that staff transferring to the Young People's Learning Agency and Skills Funding Agency, which will house the National Apprenticeships Service, will continue to be covered by the Civil Service Pension Scheme and staff transferring to local authorities will have access to local government schemes. We are working with the Government Actuaries Department and representatives of the various pension's schemes to establish the details for every member of staff affected by this transfer.

Learning and Skills Council: Telephone Services

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidelines are in place for telephone calls by employees of the Learning and Skills Council to telephone numbers at the Palace of Westminster. [245186]

Mr. Simon: This is an operational matter for the LSC, and I have therefore asked Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he

has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Well Being, with particular regard to life-long learning policy objectives; and if he will make a statement. [244017]

Mr. Simon: The Secretary of State was pleased to receive the Foresight report on Mental Capital and Wellbeing on behalf of Government and to oversee progress by Departments in their consideration and uptake of its findings over the coming year.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for DIUS policy on life long learning and the Department will report on this in due course.

Research

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what assessment his Department has made of the economic impact of research in universities which have received less than £2 million of quality-related research funding in each year since 2002; [245616]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of research in universities with a strong profile in excellent research of national significance, as determined by the 2002 research assessment exercise, upon innovation and applied research in respect of *(a)* international companies, *(b)* the regional economies, *(c)* higher education exports, *(d)* the NHS and *(e)* other public and not-for-profit sectors. [245617]

Mr. Lammy: DIUS carries out a wide range of work to measure the impact of research carried out in universities. Each year, the Department publishes a report summarising this work. The latest report, 'Economic Impacts of Investment in Research and Innovation' is available via the DIUS website at

http://www.dius.gov.uk/publications/documents/Science/Science/2008Economic_impact_report.pdf.

This report includes sections on the economy, innovation, health care, and the higher education, public and business sectors. It covers research carried out in all universities, regardless of their previous results in the research assessment exercise or the amount of quality-related research funding that they have received.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's strategy is for ensuring that students in universities which are leaders in widening participation have equal access to a well-resourced research infrastructure in their university. [245618]

Mr. Lammy: The Government's policy are that students should have access to the higher education courses that best suit their needs, and universities should leverage their research activities to enrich undergraduate programmes as appropriate. This will not happen in the same way in all universities, and we do not believe it should. The Government's debate on the future of higher education offers an opportunity to discuss how teaching should develop over the next 10 to 15 years.

Research: Standards

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many institutions assessed in the 2008 research assessment exercise had at least five per cent. of the research activity in one of their submissions rated as *(a)* four stars, *(b)* three stars, *(c)* two stars and *(d)* one star; and if he will make a statement; [246606]

(2) if he will make it his policy that the Higher Education Funding Council has as objectives for the distribution of quality-related research funding to universities to ensure that *(a)* world leading, internationally excellent and internationally recognised research is funded wherever it has been found and *(b)* universities with profiles in research which have received national recognition receive funding. [246607]

Mr. Lammy: Of the 159 higher education institutions in the UK that submitted to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise:

150 had at least 5 per cent. of their submitted research activity judged to be at the 4* quality level in at least one submission;

159 had at least 5 per cent. of their submitted research activity judged to be at the 3* quality level in at least one submission;

159 had at least 5 per cent. of their submitted research activity judged to be at the 2* quality level in at least one submission;

157 had at least 5 per cent. of their submitted research activity judged to be at the 1* quality level in at least one submission.

Results for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise were presented as a quality profile indicating the proportion of research activity in each submission that was judged to reach each quality level.

These figures show that virtually every higher education institution in the United Kingdom that made a submission in the exercise has some research activity assessed to be of world leading quality; and all submitting institutions have some research activity that was assessed as internationally excellent. This is a very strong positive verdict on the strength and diversity of the national research base.

Decisions on allocation of funding arising from the RAE results have not yet been made.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245719]

Mr. Simon: The Department follows the guidelines of COI.

COI Informability recommends that the use of red and green together as text/background should be avoided. They also recommend that using yellow and blue together should be avoided.

Students: Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the monetary value of the last three valuations of the student loans book were. [243335]

Mr. Lammy: The student loan book valuation for 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2007 is disclosed in the resource accounts of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Prior to this, the student loan book valuation was disclosed in the resource accounts of the Department for Education and Skills.

More details on the valuation methodology for the student loan book can be found in note 21 of the resource accounts of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Young People: Unemployed

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of young people in each of the principal seaside towns were not in employment, education or training at the latest date for which information is available. [244425]

Mr. Simon: Details of young people not in employment, education or training are not available for small geographical regions such as principal seaside towns. The smallest geographical area for which these numbers are available is by local education authority, and this data can be found in the reply given to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1721W.

SCOTLAND

BBC Scotland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent meetings he has had with BBC Scotland; what topics were discussed; and with what outcomes. [242398]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Aside from interviews, since I took up appointment on 3 October 2008 I have had no meetings with BBC Scotland.

Departmental Assets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [245293]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office have little by way of disposable assets, and we have no plans to dispose of any between 2007-08 and 2010-11.

Departmental Buildings

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on renovation and refurbishment of its properties in each of the last five years. [245302]

Ann McKechin: Under the terms of its building leases the Office is required to maintain the buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair. The Scotland Office does not separately identify the costs of renovation and refurbishment from the routine repair and replacement of existing facilities. Over the period of the last five years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments. The following figures show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings, but does not include the contribution by the Departments towards their share of the costs.

	Cost (£)
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071
2007-08	[1]1,011,254

[1] In 2007-08 this included roof and exterior repairs to Dover House in London.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244715]

Ann McKechin: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members-Peers-correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

(b) In respect of emails, this information is not centrally held and is not possible to collect within the disproportionate cost limit.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of contractors and suppliers to his Department have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245307]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not directly use external suppliers or contractors to carry out its responsibilities. As an associated office, the Scotland Office is provided with a range of corporate and support services by the Ministry of Justice, who place an obligation on all of their contractors to provide IT and data management systems that meet Government security standards.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many contracts his Department has which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245335]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no such contracts in place.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245369]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The Ministry of Justice's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) is the Director General of the Democracy, Constitution and Law Group who took over this responsibility in spring 2008, in advance of the Data Handling Review's publication.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 807-08W, on departmental electronic equipment, how many flat screen televisions were purchased in 2007-08. [245268]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office purchased four flat screen televisions in 2007-08.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246012]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Information relating to the diversity of staff are held by the parent Departments.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244354]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has generally, but not exclusively, obtained office furniture through central procurement contracts set-up by the Scottish Executive. The Office does not separately identify the source of supply.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242021]

Ann McKechin: No members of staff in the Scotland Office have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in any of the last three years.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [245300]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system; consequently, the Office does not directly undertake IT projects.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of the IT systems in his Department is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245378]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration (including data compliance and security) and maintenance of the system.

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press and communications officers are employed by his Department. [245299]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W, to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt).

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for which websites his Department provides funding. [245396]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 808W, to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which internet providers his Department uses. [245497]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the development, administration and maintenance of the system.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department work to assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [245294]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 809W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246964]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

My Office publishes information relating to the use of external consultants on *Hansard* and since 2003, the names and overall costs of special advisers by pay band are published on an annual basis.

Further to this, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland (Mr. Murphy) has responsibility for appointing members of the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243742]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not spent anything on departmental Christmas parties or staff entertainment in the last three years.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of new recruits to his Department were aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years old in 2007-08. [245305]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

Departmental Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [245395]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 392W, to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott).

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 462-3W, on departmental procurement, for what reason and for what premises the kettles and television sets were purchased. [242036]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office purchased two kettles at a total cost of £35.90 for our tea preparation areas in Melville Crescent in Edinburgh and four television sets for our ministerial offices in Dover House in London at a total cost of £2,076.00.

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate he has made of the number of hours of work lost through sickness absence on the part of staff working in his Department in the last 12 months. [245304]

Ann McKechin: All staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; who as parent Departments have absence management policies that apply to those of their staff working in this office. We do not maintain a separate central record of sick absences. Such records are held by the parent Departments who publish their sick absence statistics.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [246984]

Ann McKechin: The Office does not use telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers.

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament. [245295]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has received two written questions for answer on a named day in the current Session of Parliament. 100 per cent. were answered on the due date.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246334]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice; who remain their employers. It is for these Departments to determine their policy on employing former prisoners.

Plain English

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each of the last five years. [245303]

Ann McKechin: No expenditure has been incurred on Plain English Campaign training courses.

Wines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on wine in each of the last 24 months. [245301]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office records its hospitality expenditure in accordance with the principles of "Managing Public Money". It keeps no separate record of expenditure on wine.

DEFENCE

Warship Construction Programme

8. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for the warship construction programme; and if he will make a statement. [246447]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are currently engaged in the most substantial peacetime naval shipbuilding programme since the first world war. This is centred on the Type 45 destroyers, the Astute class submarines and the future aircraft Carriers. Following on from these we will have the future surface combatant and successor class submarine. This programme will provide the capability the Royal Navy needs to remain one of the world's most powerful maritime forces. As the House knows we have announced that the in-service dates of the carriers will be delayed by one to two years allowing closer alignment for the entry into service of the aircraft which will fly from them. HMS Daring, the first of class of the T45 destroyers, is expected to enter service next year with its five successors at a rate of approximately one a year thereafter. The House will also know that there has been some delay to the Astute programme. We are re-baselining the programme and I will make an announcement in due course. The future surface combatant will follow-on from the carriers, but it is far too early to announce an in-service date. The future surface combatant and the successor class submarines are at the very early stages of design.

Eurofighter

9. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the size of the Eurofighter tranche 3 contract is expected to be; and if he will make a statement. [246448]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Negotiations with partner nations and industry are continuing on the Typhoon Tranche 3 contract and decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

NATO/EU Military Commitments

10. **Mr. Binley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the compatibility of the UK's NATO and EU military commitments. [246449]

18. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the compatibility of the UK's EU and NATO military commitments. [246457]

Mr. Hutton: The UK works to ensure NATO and EU military commitments complement each other. One recent example has been the smooth transition of counter-piracy and escort duties off the coast of Somalia from the NATO Standing Maritime Group 2 to the EU maritime taskforce.

Equipment Programme

11. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the review of his Department's equipment programme on the capabilities of the armed forces. [246450]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The effect has been very positive. We are pressing ahead with Future Lynx and giving a new priority to the Warrior upgrade and the FRES reconnaissance vehicle. These are all very important programmes for current operations and the nation's future defence capability. We have been able to do this by re-profiling the carrier build programme without any loss to defence capability. Although the in-service dates of the new carrier have been delayed, of which the House is aware, this has allowed us to more closely align their entry into service with the aircraft which will fly off them.

Jackal Deployment: Iraq

12. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Jackals have been deployed in Iraq since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [246451]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Jackal was bought for Afghanistan in response to the requirements of that theatre. It provides excellent mobility and firepower and is well adapted for manoeuvring in the Afghan desert. Heavy firepower in Iraq has been effectively delivered by Warrior and Challenger, both of which are well adapted to the Iraqi terrain. No Jackals have therefore been deployed on operations in Iraq.

Afghanistan

13. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [246452]

21. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [246460]

22. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [246461]

Mr. Hutton: Considerable progress has been made but the insurgency remains resilient. The majority of people can go about their daily lives but, in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east, significant security challenges remain. The Taliban have failed using conventional tactics and are turning to increasingly indiscriminate attacks, which show complete disregard for the safety of the local population.

Iran

15. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of potential military threats posed by Iran. [246454]

20. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of potential military threats posed by Iran. [246459]

24. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of potential military threats posed by Iran. [246463]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones).

Armed Forces Day

16. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on preparations for Armed Forces Day; and if he will make a statement. [246455]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces announced in our response to the National Recognition Study, the first Armed Forces Day will be held on 27 June this year, building on the success of Veterans Day events held in previous years. The day will provide an opportunity for the public to show their appreciation for the contribution made to society by those who serve and have served the nation in the armed forces. We are working with a wide range of organisations to deliver events that will mark the day and planning is progressing well.

Post-Combat Stress Disorder: North Yorkshire

17. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on access to treatment by those with post-combat stress disorder who live in North Yorkshire. [246456]

Mr. Kevan Jones: During the past 12 months both my predecessor and I have responded to parliamentary and ministerial correspondence relating to access to treatment for specific individuals in the North Yorkshire area who are suffering from PTSD.

We are working with the four UK Health Departments in piloting a new mental health service for veterans in five NHS trusts across the UK to address treatment of veterans' mental health problems. I spoke at a conference in Hull which has pioneered support for veterans.

We are also working with the King's Centre for Military Health to monitor the mental health of a cohort of serving personnel to better understand the true prevalence of psychiatric disorders and the treatment required.

Snatch Land Rover

19. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to procure an alternative to the Snatch Land Rover. [246458]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are already replacing Snatch Land Rover with Snatch Vixen. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence said in his written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 103-04WS, we do not believe that there is a better vehicle than Snatch Vixen currently available anywhere in the world to fulfil the Light Protected Patrol Vehicle requirement. But we are also looking to the future and anticipating new threats, and we have begun a programme to develop the next generation of these vehicles which will in due course take the place of Snatch Vixen.

Defence Capability

23. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of his proposed reductions in defence procurement expenditure on the UK's defence capability. [246462]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The defence procurement budget has not been reduced. The effect of the examination has been to focus our budget on the delivery of those capabilities of highest immediate urgency for current operations, while allowing us to continue to invest in those capabilities needed to respond to future threats.

Piracy

25. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to combat piracy on the high seas; and if he will make a statement. [248464]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In most parts of the world, incidents of piracy and maritime armed robbery are decreasing. It is clear however, that the increase in incidents around the Horn of Africa is a growing problem that needs to be tackled by the international community.

The Ministry of Defence is therefore supporting two international efforts to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia—the Coalition Maritime Forces operations, and the EU counter piracy mission, which a UK officer will command and for which we are providing the operational HQ and one Frigate.

We have also stiffened our rules of engagement and instructed Royal Navy vessels to actively seek out pirates. Under these new guidelines, HMS Cumberland successfully deterred an attack and rescued a pirated Yemeni vessel and crew last November.

We are determined to play our part, through the Royal Navy, and in close co-operation with other countries, to tackle piracy and to protect legitimate trade and transport.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement on the European Council, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 813-31, what units will form the increase of 300 troops to Afghanistan. [245183]

Mr. Hutton: As detailed in my statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 105WS, The Second Battalion, The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment are temporarily deployed to Afghanistan until March 2009.

They will be replaced by The Second Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who will be deployed until August 2009.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement on the European Council, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 813-31, what the Government's policy is on the number of trained Afghan national army troops required for security purposes in Afghanistan. [245184]

Mr. Hutton: We welcome the decision taken by the Afghan authorities and the International Community on 10 September 2008 to increase the size of the Afghan National Army from 80,000 to 134,000. This includes operational units, trainers and enablers.

Building Afghanistan's capacity to provide security for its people remains key to success. Therefore the UK supports ANA expansion both of its combat capabilities and in key supporting elements such as engineering, intelligence, and logistics.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [246537]

Mr. Hutton: The majority of people in Afghanistan can go about their daily lives without fear of violence but, in certain areas of the country, particularly in the south and east, significant security challenges remain.

The Taliban have failed using conventional tactics and are turning to increasingly indiscriminate attacks, which show complete disregard for the safety of the local population.

Air Force: Training

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many training hours were flown from *(a)* RAF Linton-on-Ouse, *(b)* RAF Cranwell and *(c)* RAF Valley in each of the last three years for which records are available; [246398]

(2) how many flying training hours are planned to be flown from *(a)* RAF Linton-on-Ouse, *(b)* RAF Cranwell and *(c)* RAF Valley in each of the next three years; [246399]

(3) what effect he estimates the award of the UK Military Flying Training System contract will have on the number of flying training hours flown from *(a)* RAF Linton-on-Ouse, *(b)* RAF Cranwell and *(c)* RAF Valley. [246416]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The flying hours flown in the last three years and anticipated for the next three years are detailed in the following table. It should be noted that figures for future years are estimates only and may be subject to change as part of the normal management process.

	Flown			*Planned*		
	2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
RAF Linton-on-Ouse	11,737	12,842	12,347	14,500	14,500	14,500
RAF Cranwell	17,475	18,293	19,376	21,350	21,150	21,150
RAF Valley	17,327	17,096	14,894	16,910	18,510	19,200

The UK Military Flying Training System (UKMFTS) will cater for the future flying training needs of the armed forces. Delivery will be incremental, with full delivery of the service planned for early in the next decade. No decisions have yet been taken on the number of UKMFTS flying training hours to be undertaken from individual stations.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned in-service dates of *(a)* HMS Queen Elizabeth and *(b)* HMS Prince of Wales are. [244566]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effects on the project cost of later than originally planned in-service dates for HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. [244572]

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the effect on his Department's costs of the decision to put back the in-service date of HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. [245216]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* We have estimated the costs of a delay to in-service dates in close consultation with the Aircraft Carrier Alliance and other stakeholders. Further negotiations with industry will be necessary to reach a firm figure and I am therefore withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Armed Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team report. [245096]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A copy of the most recently published report, that for second half of 2007, compiled by the Chief of the General Staff's Briefing Team was placed in the Library of the House and remains current. I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend,

the Minister of State for the Armed Forces, gave on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1464W. The next report is being prepared for publication in 2009 and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House when formally published.

Armed Forces: Accommodation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's long-term housing plan. [245125]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Accommodation Management Strategy will set out how single living accommodation and service family accommodation will be managed over the next 10 years.

It is our intention to publish the strategy in the new year.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many forces personnel are deployed on operations, broken down by location. [245094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The endorsed force levels for UK military operations are set out in the following table.

Location	*Endorsed number (at 16 December 2008)*[1]
Afghanistan[2]	8,050
Southern Iraq	4,150
Baghdad[3]	250
At sea	1,050
Falklands/South Atlantic	1,300
Qatar	700
Cyprus	300
Kuwait	550
Kosovo	150
Bahrain	50
Bosnia	<50
Other[4]	150

[1] Rounded to 50

[2] On 15 December 2008, the Prime Minister announced a temporary increase in the number of British troops deployed to Afghanistan, from just over 8,000 to 8,300 (*Official Report*, column 816). The endorsed figure for Operation Herrick 9 remains unaffected.

[3] Providing support to the Senior British Military Representative—Iraq.

[4] Small scale deployments in support of EU and UN missions, and headquarters liaison officers.

The precise number of personnel in each theatre at any one time fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and other factors.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the Armed Forces are deployed on *(a)* operations and *(b)* other military tasks. [245097]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the percentage of armed forces personnel deployed on operations and undertaking military tasks during quarters one and two of financial year 2008-09.

	Percentage deployed on contingent operations	*Percentage undertaking military tasks*		
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q1*	*Q2*
Naval service	5	6	13	9
Army	13	12	7	8
RAF	7	7	7	7
Total armed forces	9	9	9	8

This information is published annually in the Ministry of Defence annual report and accounts. The latest version can be found in Volume I: Annual Performance Report 2007-08 at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0708/

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservist personnel are currently deployed, broken down by *(a)* service and *(b)* location. [245099]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the number of reservist personnel currently deployed by service are available in table 1, footnote 3 of Tri-Service Publication (TSP) 01 (UK Regular Forces Strengths and Changes). TSP 01 can be found at:

http://bravo.dasa.r.mil.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=30&date=2008-11-27&pubType=1&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=3

TSP 01 is a monthly publication; the number of reservists deployed at 1 November will be available from 19 December.

The number of reservists deployed by location is not held centrally in individual level databases and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each battalion of the infantry are in breach of their harmony guidelines for tour intervals. [245118]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Tour intervals are measured at unit level. Harmony guidelines at the individual level are expressed in terms of separated service, which relates to the number of nights spent away from an individual's home base. The guideline for the Army is no one to exceed 415 days separated service in any 30-month period.

Separated service figures for each battalion of the infantry are not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The latest available figure for the infantry as a whole (as at 31 December 2006), shows 10.7 per cent. of personnel exceeding the separated service guideline. It is hoped that separated service data will in future be provided by the joint personnel administration system.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times elements of the Theatre Reserve Battalion in Cyprus have been deployed to *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each year since 2003, broken down by (i) length of deployment and (ii) unit down to the company level. [245119]

Mr. Hutton: The Theatre Reserve Battalion, based in Cyprus, has been deployed on the occasions listed in the following table.

Date	Unit	Grouping	Theatre	Duration (months)
January 2005	1 Royal Highland Fusiliers	Battalion HQ and 3 Companies	Iraq	1
October 2005	1 Royal Highland Fusiliers	1 Company	Iraq	1.5
April 2006	2 Royal Regiment Fusiliers	2 Companies	Iraq	2
July 2006	2 Royal Regiment Fusiliers	1 Company	Afghanistan	4
September 2006	2 Royal Regiment Fusiliers	Battalion HQ and 2 Companies	Iraq	2
January 2007	2 Royal Regiment Fusiliers	1 Company	Afghanistan	3
April 2007	1 Royal Welsh	Battalion HQ and 1 Company	Afghanistan	5
May 2007	1 Royal Welsh	1 Company	Iraq	4
October 2007	1 Royal Welsh	1 Company	Afghanistan	1
November 2007	1 Royal Welsh	1 Company	Afghanistan	2
January 2008	1 Royal Welsh	1 Company	Afghanistan	1
February 2008	1 Royal Welsh	1 Company	Afghanistan	4
June 2008	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	1 Company	Afghanistan	3
August 2008	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	Battalion HQ and 1 Company	Afghanistan	3

One Company from 2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment is currently deployed to Afghanistan.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the compatibility of the UK's NATO and EU military commitments. [245271]

Mr. Hutton: The UK works with international partners and allies to ensure that NATO and EU military commitments complement each other. One recent example of this complementarity has been the smooth transition of counter-piracy and escort duties off the coast of Somalia from the NATO Standing Maritime Group 2 to the EU maritime taskforce.

Armed Forces: Drugs

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former members of the armed forces are in (i) drug and (ii) alcohol rehabilitation. [244936]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on the total number of service personnel currently receiving any treatment for substance misuse is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information on the number of new attendances at military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) in 2007 for which an initial diagnosis of substance misuse was given is contained within UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity report which is produced by DASA and is available to view on their website at www.dasa.mod.uk/. The number of such initial diagnoses at DCMHs between 1 January and 31 December 2007 are shown as follows; these figures will include regular service personnel, mobilised reservists and entitled de-mobilised reservists as part of the Reserve Mental Health programme.

	Psychoactive substance misuse	Of which disorders due to alcohol[1]
January to March 2007	101	—
April to June 2007	121	115
July to September 2007	134	121
October to December 2007	88	82

[1] Specific data not available for disorders due to use of alcohol during January to March 2007.

The Department has issued guidance to commanders on substance misuse and all three services have robust drug and alcohol policies in place. As such early intervention by the chain of command is likely to occur for disciplinary or welfare reasons before treatment by the Defence Medical Services would become necessary.

Service personnel identified by the chain of command as being at risk of alcohol misuse receive counselling and welfare support, this can include attendance on preventative early intervention programmes designed to alert them to the harm that alcohol can cause to themselves and others. More serious cases are treated through specialist medical and psychological treatment and rehabilitation, including where appropriate as in-patients.

Drug use is seen as being incompatible with military service and as such there is a zero tolerance policy which is reinforced by Compulsory Drug Testing (CDT). In the majority of cases a positive CDT result will lead to an immediate administrative discharge. In very exceptional circumstances service personnel may be retained if their drug use is considered to be uncharacteristic and their retention would be in the interest of the service. In these cases retention is subject to the successful completion of a special programme, which is designed to re-educate and give training in cognitive behavioural therapy.

The Department does not hold information regarding veterans receiving treatment for drug or alcohol misuse.

Armed Forces: Homelessness

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of former members of the armed services who were homeless at the latest date for which figures are available. [244773]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Devolved Administrations lead on homelessness policy. They have strategies that recognise veterans issues. The Ministry of Defence does not collect on a national basis data on the numbers of homeless veterans. We have however estimated that the proportion of veterans among the non-statutory homeless population, at least in London, has fallen over the last 10 years. Independent research by the university of York published this year has shown that the proportion of veterans among the non-statutory homeless population in London in 2007 was about 6 per cent. This is a much lower proportion than in the mid-1990s when separate research reported a figure of 20-25 per cent.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are living in temporary accommodation. [244937]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to report assets held by Annington Homes on his Department's balance sheet under IFRIC 12. [245131]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence is currently undertaking a review of all PPP/PFI and leasing-type arrangements, including the Annington Homes contract, in order to meet the HM Treasury timetable for the implementation of IFRS as adopted by the public sector for 2009-10.

Armed Forces: Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, on influenza: disease control, what lessons to enhance the robustness and resilience of the system were identified in Operation United Endeavour II; in what ways these lessons are being addressed; and if he will make a statement. [245606]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Wherever possible, the information systems used in a pandemic will be based on existing surveillance arrangements for seasonal influenza. Following United Endeavour II, technical work has been undertaken to facilitate daily provision, in a pandemic, of data relating to general practitioner flu consultations and syndromic surveillance from NHS Direct. Work has also been undertaken to confirm the arrangements for co-ordination with equivalent information systems in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and to ensure that the National Pandemic Flu Line Service will be able to provide necessary additional surveillance information.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1205W, on armed forces: influenza, what proportion of the A/H5N1 vaccine stockpile held by the Department of Health is reserved for use by the armed forces. [245611]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD has a total allocation of 108,000 doses of H5N1 vaccine, which is sufficient for 54,000 courses of treatment at two doses per person.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 20 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1204W, on armed forces: influenza, at which overseas locations antivirals are currently held; and what the total number of antiviral courses at each location is, broken down by type of antiviral. [245612]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As stated in my previous answer, in accordance with Defence Medical Services guidance, 10 antiviral courses have been pre-positioned in medical facilities overseas; five courses in the role 2 (enhanced) field hospital unit at Basra in Iraq and five at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan.

A further 18,000 antiviral courses for use in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza have been distributed to overseas locations where MOD personnel and their dependents are based. To protect the integrity of the stocks in the event of a pandemic, locations and quantities are not placed in the public domain. The quantities have been calculated in accordance with Department of Health guidance; stockholdings are kept under regular review, and there has been no need to change them since June 2008.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 20 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 698W, on Armed Forces: influenza, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance note entitled Recovery of operational capability in the aftermath of a pandemic; what the titles are of all other guidance notes on which work was ongoing; whether work is ongoing on other guidance notes; and if he will make a statement. [245699]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The generic MOD Pandemic Influenza Framework brings together activities which for the most part will be undertaken by Defence business units and operational commands so that they can put in place the necessary response arrangements before a pandemic emerges. The guidance notes support the key tasks identified in the framework and are in the form of one-page summaries.

All the guidance notes, including the note "Recovery of operational capability in the aftermath of a pandemic", have now been completed, although as the framework is a live document, they will be subject to regular review and amendment. I will place a copy of the latest version of the MOD Pandemic Influenza Framework containing the key tasks and guidance notes (dated October 2008) in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Journalism

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of embedding journalists in the armed forces in each year since 1997. [246741]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A key requirement for the MOD as a Department of State is to communicate its activities to ensure openness and transparency of government. In order to assist this we have routinely embedded journalists in operational theatres. No charges have been applied to embedded news journalists.

In all instances where journalists are embedded this is undertaken using existing facilities. Nominal or marginal costs in the field such as food and field accommodation are not significant and are not accounted for centrally.

Armed Forces: Labour Turnover

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many newly-commissioned officers joined (a) the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each year since 1987. [244592]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is as follows.

Officers can become commissioned:

when they complete training;

while they are still untrained; or

on direct entry to the trained strength.

Newly-commissioned officers can not be derived directly from centrally held records, but the majority of officers become commissioned when they complete training.

The following table shows the number of officers completing training and joining the trained strength of the UK Regular Forces[1] by Service from 1999-2000 to 2007-08. Prior to 1999-00 these data could not be derived directly from centrally held records.

[1] UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Naval Service	450	420	400	480	470	420	360	[1]410	[1]300
Army	560	530	540	590	600	640	630	[1]620	1610
RAF[3]	510	520	570	560	570	550	380	[2]450	[2]440

[1] Denotes data provisional and subject to review

[2] Denotes estimated

[3] RAF figures for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are estimates derived from the relationship of Untrained to Trained flows with net Gains to Trained Strengths pre the Joint Personnel Administrative (JPA) system.

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DASA (Quad-Service)

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officers left the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force in each year between 1987 and 1997. [244593]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the number of officers leaving the UK Regular Forces[1] 1987-88 to 1996-97 by Service.

[1] UK Regular Forces includes Nursing services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.

	1987-88	*1988-89*	*1989-90*	*1990-91*	*1991-92*	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95*	*1995-96*	*1996-97*
Naval Service	760	750	820	800	730	830	1,000	670	700	930
Army	1,810	1,690	1,960	1,860	1,930	2,470	2,270	1,940	1,290	1,100
RAF	1,130	1,270	1,200	1,050	900	990	1,200	960	1,190	1,370

Note:

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DASA (Quad-Service)

Armed Forces: Uniforms

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many orders for military uniforms his Department has placed with Turner Virr in the last 10 years. [245282]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Turner Virr has been awarded 33 contracts for the supply of military uniforms in the last 10 years.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the procurement strategy for army uniforms is; and if he will make a statement. [245283]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our aim in procuring clothing for the armed forces is to achieve best value for money through the use of competition. Requirements are advertised and competed in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department records the number of *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* weapons systems removed from service as a result of battle damage in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. [249089]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Such information is held, but I am withholding it as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on repairing *(a)* armoured vehicles, *(b)* aircraft, *(c)* helicopters and *(d)* weapons systems damaged owing to their use in Iraq and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [245091]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 775W, on armed forces: weapons, when he expects upgrading and modification of the warrior chain gun for *(a)* Warrior and *(b)* Challenger 2 MBT fleets to take place. [244615]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The upgrade and modification programme of the Chain Gun Control Unit has already started. To date approximately 80 per cent. of the Warrior fleet and all but a small number of the Challenger 2 fleet have been upgraded. The process of identifying the outstanding vehicles is ongoing with a target for completion of January 2009.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 775W, on armed forces: weapons, whether the instances of undemanded firing of the Warrior chain gun referred to resulted in *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths. [244616]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Of the four confirmed incidents of chain gun undemanded firing since 2000, sadly two resulted in death or injuries. An incident in 2003 caused serious injury to a British servicemen and an incident in 2004 tragically resulted in the death of an Iraqi civilian and injury to another.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armoured vehicles were in-service in the Army in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008, broken down by type. [245098]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Vehicle	*In service 1997*	*In service 2008*
Challenger 1 Main Battle Tank	426	0
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank	0	345
Challenger 2 Driver Training Tank	0	22
Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle	81	81
Trojan	0	28
Titan	0	28
Centurion Beach Recovery Vehicle	5	0
Beach Recovery Vehicle	0	4
Warrior	794	793
Saxon (GWR and Patrol)	660	147 Patrol
Samson	52	52
Spartan	640	495
Scimitar	341	325
Samaritan	69	50
Sultan	272	205
FV430	1,833 (Mk2 only)	1,487 (Mk2 and Bulldog)
Mastiff	0	108
Jackal	0	130
Vector	0	166 plus 12 ambulances
Viking	0	116
Panther	0	100

The Saxon GWR was declared obsolete on 31 March 2008 and the vehicles were disposed of. Spartan, Scimitar, Samaritan, Sultan and FV430 numbers have reduced due to revised Total Fleet Requirements.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Supacat M-WMIK have been supplied to UK armed forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; how many of them were armoured to become Jackals in each case; and how many M-WMIKs are operating unarmoured in each country. [245229]

Mr. Hutton: Specific operational information on the number of Jackals (M-WMIK) supplied to UK armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan is withheld as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. All Jackals deployed on operations are armoured.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the dimension specifications are for *(a)* the Cheetah Force Protection vehicle and *(b)* the Snatch Land Rover. [246135]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1448W.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on the procurement of the Future Rapid Effects System Utility Vehicle variant to date. [244571]

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what total expenditure has been to date on the FRES utility variant programme; and if he will make a statement. [245104]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Expenditure on the Future Rapid Effects System Utility Vehicle by variant up to the end of November 2008 was some £132 million.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the procurement of a new fleet of reconnaissance vehicles for the Army. [244621]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our plan for a new fleet of reconnaissance vehicles will form part of the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES). Outline plans for this requirement were stated by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence in his recent written ministerial statement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS. As part of the wider FRES programme, the FRES Reconnaissance family of vehicles is in its assessment phase. The first variant into service is expected to be the FRES Scout.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the clearing date is for each of the four Astute-class SSNs *(a)* under construction and *(b)* due for construction at Devonshire Hall, Barrow. [246319]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 141W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Astute Class Submarines: Finance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget line was used for the £227 million expenditure on Astute overheads identified in the Ministry of Defence Major Projects Report 2007 from the Committee of Public Accounts, HC 433; and what effect this allocation had on expenditure on the UK nuclear deterrent programme in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08. [246699]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD Major Projects Report 2007 (HC433) noted the transfer of £227 million from the Astute budget line to another within the Submarine Production Integrated Project Team. This funding, which was used for the generation and sustainment of nuclear skills necessary to support the submarine-building industry, was not additional expenditure but an existing part of the Astute programme.

The transfer had no direct effect on spending on the UK's nuclear deterrent. A sustainable submarine industry is, however, essential for the effective delivery of the future submarine programme, so this expenditure will have indirect benefits.

Barron Report

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Barron Report on defence land needs. [245123]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A copy of the 'Barron Report', which was prepared some years ago, is being obtained and will be placed in the Library of the House.

Cyprus: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what systems are used to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* obtain information on turtle populations on the sovereign bases in Cyprus. [245415]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are currently four voluntary 'Turtlewatch' groups operating on the SBAs. Three groups in the Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) and one group in the Eastern Sovereign Base Area (ESBA).

Of the three WSBA groups, Episkopi patrols and monitors beaches focused around the Episkopi station area, which includes non-military and military controlled land. This group is predominantly led by British ex-pats and consists of 80-100 members with some serving military personnel assisting in their own time. In addition some beaches in the Episkopi area are monitored by Pissouri turtlewatch, and both Pissouri and Episkopi turtlewatch work together in this respect.

Akrotiri turtlewatch monitors beaches around the Akrotiri peninsular, which includes military and non-military controlled land. This group has a larger proportion of military personnel contributing and the key co-ordinators are serving. Akrotiri turtlewatch is also working with Glasgow university and up to 12 students assist with monitoring every year.

In the ESBA there is one turtlewatch group at Dhekelia that monitors the local station beaches. This is co-ordinated by serving military/civilian personnel in their spare time.

Patrols are undertaken by these groups on an almost daily basis on known or potential turtle nesting grounds between May and September to identify turtle tracks and nest sites. Once a nest is located it is protected from stray dogs and foxes by placing a metal cage and tape around the general area of the nest. Around hatching time the nest is observed from a distance and after three days following the first hatch, the nest is excavated to ensure all the hatchlings can escape to the sea.

The active members of Turtlewatch are licensed by the SBAA's Environment Department to undertake these activities following appropriate training.

Since 2007 all data relating to turtle nests, hatches and deaths etc. are collated by the Sovereign Base Area Administration (SBAA Environment Department) for use in developing SBA environmental policy and assessing the impact of foreshore activities.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many turtles hatched at RAF Akrotiri in each of the last three years. [245416]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of turtles hatched on the beaches at RAF Akrotiri in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2008	1,254
2007	1,534
2006	1,110

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces take part in his Department's Turtlewatch scheme in Cyprus. [245417]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of military personnel taking part in the Turtlewatch activities is difficult to determine accurately, given the voluntary nature of the work. But, British Forces Cyprus work closely with volunteer organisations to monitor and safeguard protected species and habitats around the Sovereign Base Areas.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Territorial Army members and *(b)* reservists have participated in the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [245051]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 18 December 2008 there were 246 members of the Territorial Army deployed as a formed TA unit on Operation TOSCA, the UK contribution to UNFICYP. In the nine years previous to the current deployment, TA personnel were only sent as individual augmentees. Approximately 10 TA augmentees per year were deployed during this period.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government has contributed to the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in *(a)* monetary support, *(b)* troops and *(c)* senior officers in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [245052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our assessed contributions to the UN in respect of the costs of the UNFICYP mission for 2008-09 are 2,740,207 USD (until payment is made and exchange rates are known, it is not possible to provide a sterling figure). The following table shows our assessed contributions over the previous three years:

	Assessed contribution (£)
2007-08	960,793
2006-07	1,162,502
2005-06	709,830

We also contribute to the mission through the provision of personnel. Since March 2005 our contribution has been steady at approximately 274; this comprises 245 Other Ranks, 16 Junior Officers (Captain and below) and 13 Senior Officers (Major and above). Our contribution includes the Chief of Staff to the mission.

The national costs in providing this contingent are defrayed by payments from the UN, which currently average around $1,000 per soldier per month.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate *(a)* he and *(b)* the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus have made of the (i) number and (ii) strength of Turkish forces in north Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245053]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Jim Murphy) on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 692W.

I cannot speak on behalf of UNFICYP.

Defence Equipment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Written Ministerial Statement of 11 December, *Official Report*, column 65WS, on defence equipment, whether the defence budget will be required to repay the full cost or half the cost of urgent operational requirement purchases over £635 million in financial year 2009-10. [245204]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have agreed with HM Treasury an estimate for Reserve expenditure on other UORs in 2009-10 of £635 million. This is in addition to the funding that will be provided from the Reserve for the Protected Mobility package for 2009-10. I can confirm that any excess UOR spend over the estimate of £635 million will be repaid in full (100 per cent.) from the Defence budget in two years' time (FY2011-12).

Defence Equipment: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effect of increases in equipment costs on the defence budget. [242879]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The effects of changing costs are taken into account in the Department's regular planning rounds. We are currently conducting Planning Round 2009, which will conclude in the first half of this year. We are also engaged in work which is designed to give a better indication of the overall impact of price variation on the Defence programme.

Defence Estates: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed by the Defence Estates; how many of those are employed in Scotland; what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; what the personnel costs of the agency are in 2008-09; and what they were in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07 and (iv) 2007-08. [241122]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is shown in the following table, with staff numbers rounded to the nearest 10:

Defence Estates

	Personnel costs (£ million)	*Total average staff (number)*	*Employed in Scotland (number)*
2004-05	101.3	3,130	230
2005-06	144.8	4,180	210
2006-07	153.3	4,020	200
2007-08	157.3	4,250	190
2008-09 (forecast)	158.7	4,280	200

Defence Estates' overall numbers have risen due to additional responsibilities transferred to it from other parts of the MOD, in particular in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Defence Logistics Organisation: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of its staffing budget for 2007-08 the Defence Logistics Organisation spent in Scotland; and what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [241118]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Logistics Organisation ceased to exist as a discrete budgetary area in April 2007 when its functions were merged with those of the Defence Procurement Agency to form Defence Equipment and Support. Personnel costs, broken down as requested to show the proportion spent in Scotland, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence Vetting Agency: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of those people are employed by the Defence Vetting Agency; how many of those are employed in Scotland; what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08; what the staffing costs of the agency are in 2008-09; and what they were in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06, (iii) 2006-07 and (iv) 2007-08. [241120]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is shown in the following table. These figures are sourced from the Defence Vetting Agency and show all staff employed within the period. As such they may differ from statistics published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency which include only staff employed on 1 April each year and are subject to rounding.

Defence Vetting Agency

	UK personnel numbers	*Scotland personnel numbers*	*Total personnel costs (£000)*
Current year	396	7	[1]6,887
2007-08	386	6	10,992
2006-07	357	6	9,789
2005-06	346	6	9,045
2004-05	348	6	8,407

[1] To December 2008

Defence: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total defence budget is planned to be in each of the next two years. [245869]

Mr. Hutton: The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07) settlement set the defence budget for the financial years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The total departmental expenditure limits for these years, as published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008, are £35,371 million and £36,897 million respectively.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the next discussion between EU defence ministers about EU military options for the Democratic Republic of Congo to take place. [246302]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently no plans for EU Defence Ministers to discuss EU military options for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Departmental Accounts

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will break down in near cash terms the tables included in note *(a)* 24 of the MoD Resource Accounts 2001-02, *(b)* 25 of MoD Annual Report and Accounts 2002-03, *(c)* 26 of MoD Annual Report and Accounts 2003-04 and *(d)* 26 of MoD Annual Report and Accounts 2004-05; [245132]

(2) if he will break down in near cash terms the tables included in note 24 of the MoD Annual Report and Accounts *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [245133]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The expenditure in the notes requested is expressed in total resource costs terms. Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the final resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on the purchase of consultancy services, with reference to the Standard Chart of Account code 51401400, in 2007-08. [245120]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's final audited outturn on the purchase of consultancy services, against the Standard Chart of Account code 51401400 which includes Management Consultancy of Business Performance, Financial and Accountancy Services, Corporate Governance and Audit in 2007-08 was £113 million.

This figure is reflected in the 2007-08 report "Summaries of the Ministry of Defence External Assistance Expenditure", which is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Contracts

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on contract and agency staff, with reference to the Standard Chart of Account code 51404000, in 2007-08. [245121]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Standard Chart of Account code 51404000 which includes Management Consultancy of Business Performance, Financial and Accountancy Services, corporate Governance and Audit is no longer in use. Expenditure on contract and agency staff is now included within overall staff costs.

Using internal management accounts, the Department's final audited outturn on contract and agency staff in 2007-08 was £64 million. This category is for casual labour and employment agencies' staff employed for less than 11 months.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department plans to spend on contract and agency staff, with reference to the Standard Chart of Account code 51404000, in 2008-09 to 2010-11. [245122]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Standard Chart of Account code 51404000, which covers Management Consultancy of Business Performance, Financial and Accountancy Services, Corporate Governance and Audit, is no longer in use. Expenditure on contract and agency staff is now included within overall staff costs.

Using internal management accounts, the Department's current forecast on contract and agency staff is £77 million. This category is for casual labour and employment agencies' staff employed for less than 11 months.

The Department's plans for future spend on contract and agency staff are currently being examined in the Planning Round 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244702]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to correspondence from Members and Peers. Information relating to calendar year 2008 will be published as soon as it is collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS.

Departmental Data Protection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* desktop computers, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* hard drives and *(d)* memory sticks which have gone missing from (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each year since 2003 have since been recovered. [245085]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the number of officially issued assets centrally reported as recovered from the MOD and its agencies since 2003. Some delayed reporting of recoveries of hardware has led to minor updates to the figures in this answer compared with information provided in previous answers. The following figures reflect the latest data held as at 18 December 2008.

Figures for recovered desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD from 2003 to 2008

	MOD recoveries by year						
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
(a) Desktop computer	0	1	2	3	0	1	7
(b) Laptop computer	5	6	11	9	9	26	66
(c) Hard drives	2	2	1	0	1	5	11
(d) USB flash memory devices	0	0	0	1	1	11	13
Total	7	9	14	13	11	43	97

Note:
Memory sticks are defined by MOD as USB flash memory devices.

Figures for recovered desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD agencies from 2003 to 2008

	2003				*2004*				*2005*			
	(a) DT	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*	*(a) DT*	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*	*(a) DT*	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*
Air	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	1	—
Centre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Def Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DE&S	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
DSTL	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fleet	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Land	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
PJHQ	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
UKHO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5	—	—
Total MOD	0	5	2	0	1	6	2	0	2	11	1	0

	2006				*2007*				*2008*				
	(a) DT	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*	*(a) DT*	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*	*(a) DT*	*(b) LT*	*(c) HD*	*(d) USB*	*Totals*
Air	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	13
Centre	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	5	14
Def Estates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
DE&S	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	10
DSTL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fleet	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	9	3	—	24
Land	2	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	1	3	1	3	19
PJHQ	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	6
UKHO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

	2006				2007				2008				
	(a) DT	(b) LT	(c) HD	(d) USB	(a) DT	(b) LT	(c) HD	(d) USB	(a) DT	(b) LT	(c) HD	(d) USB	Totals
Total MOD	3	9	0	1	0	9	1	1	1	26	5	11	97

Notes:
DT—Desktop Computers
LT—Laptop Computers
HD—Hard drives
USB—USB flash memory devices
Other—the MOD agency could not be identified.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245384]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and its Agencies have several hundred computer systems in use ranging from corporate IT systems serving thousands of users across the Department and its Agencies, to business area systems serving smaller communities. The following data cover those systems within the MOD and its Agencies where accreditation is centrally controlled by Defence Security and Standards Assurance (DSSA), which are either connected to the MOD networks, or are stand alone above Secret, or are systems that contain significant value to the MOD e.g. those systems that contain particularly sensitive or personal data. It does not include those systems where authority for accreditation has been delegated e.g. stand alone systems with no onward connectivity, and where a further breakdown of information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

58 per cent. of systems have been through the accreditation process. Of these, 27 per cent. of systems are classed as fully accredited and are being operated in a manner within the MOD's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)'s risk appetite; 31 per cent. of systems are currently classed as having conditional or interim accreditation with constraints placed on the operation of the system to ensure that identified risks are adequately managed within SIRO's risk appetite.

The balance of systems (42 per cent.) are in the process of being accredited; this represents the significant workload undertaken to plan and develop solutions for new equipment systems or platforms; this also includes applications from legacy systems, many of which will be migrated onto the developing Defence Information Infrastructure.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244608]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is committed to improving energy efficiency of the defence estate and the latest performance confirms that the Department is on target to meet, and possibly exceed sustainable operations on the Government estate (SOGE) energy related targets.

The MOD's consolidated, weather corrected performance for 2007-08 relative to 1999 to 2000 levels as reported by the Sustainable Development Commission in December 2008 was:

	Tonnes/percentage
Tonnes CO_2 2007-08	1,895,879
Tonnes CO_2 Baseline	2,112,568
Performance against target (percentage)	-10.26

This significant reduction has been achieved through a combination of estate rationalisation, greater focus and co-ordination of effort to increase energy awareness and the development of effective local initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and improvements in data management. In addition, the MOD continues to identify opportunities to further reduce energy consumption for example, investing in our infrastructure to improve building energy management and efficiency, installing more energy efficient lighting, automated metering and making available funding for energy efficiency/carbon reduction projects.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many requests his Department has received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each of the last three years; in how many cases requests were refused; and what the average time taken to respond to such requests was. [245115]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Under the Freedom of Information Act we are obliged to send a response within 20 working days, and to record for performance purposes, whether this deadline was met or not.

Statistics for the last three complete years for all Government Departments are published on the Ministry of Justice website (see following table), which includes the number of requests made to each Department, and the number refused. It also gives a percentage of those answered 'in time' (normally within the 20 working day deadline). The Department does not record an average time for responding.

	Ministry of Justice website link
2005	http://www.dca.gov.uk/foi/imprep/annrep05.pdf
2006	http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-annual-report-central-gov-2006.pdf
2007	http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/foi-report-2007-final-web.pdf

Departmental Legal Proceedings

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party are under appeal. [244938]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party are ongoing or unresolved. [244939]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value is of departmental equipment *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen in each of the last five years, broken down by service. [245112]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The value of assets lost or stolen is included, with a range of other types of losses, in the summary of losses and special payments published in the MOD's annual report and accounts. Copies of the annual reports and accounts are available in the Library of the House and on line at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

(see note 29 in the departmental resource accounts for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and note 31 for subsequent financial years). The summary identifies those individual cases with a value of £250,000 or more.

Departmental Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of its staffing budget for 2007-08 the Financial Management Shared Service Centre spent in Scotland; and what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [241117]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Financial Management Shared Service Centre, including its predecessor organisation the Defence Bills Agency, has not employed any staff in Scotland in any of these years.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243576]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD had two special advisers on 30 November 2008, on pay bands 2 and 3. The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241249]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244395]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD civilians are salary paid. Temporary staff are paid on the same pay scales as permanent staff.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243496]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Information in respect of payments within 10 days of receipt could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is reviewing the processes associated with the overall payment cycle. Once this work is complete it should ensure that the Department is able to measure report performance against the Government's 10 day target. The 10 day target will apply to all MOD suppliers, irrespective of size, as it would be impractical to differentiate between small and medium size enterprises and others.

While the Department is working towards a meeting the 10 day target, it currently measures performance against the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act requirement of 30 calendar days. This allows up to 19 days for MOD branches to confirm that the services or goods supplied have been satisfactorily delivered and then 11 calendar days for the Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) to check the invoices and make payment.

The information available and published in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2006-07 and 2007-08, shows that 99.8 per cent. of all valid UK bills were paid within 11 calendar days of receipt in the FMSSC.

Departmental Project Statements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library unredacted copies of his Department's major project statements from 1983 to 1992. [245126]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how his Department's 2007-08 outturn main estimate breaks down between *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash on the same basis as set out in his Answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2346W. [244576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's expenditure was on schools and community relations, as referred to in his Department's resource account code hierarchy, in near cash terms, in each financial year since 2000-01. [245092]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The total resource costs for schools and community relations are set out in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2000-01	0.439
2001-02	0.371
2002-03	0.224
2003-04	0.466
2004-05	2.457
2005-06	2.889
2006-07	6.023
2007-08	5.439

Near cash expenditure is not separately identified in the resource accounts or the centrally held supporting records. Total resource costs have therefore been provided; however it is unlikely that there are any non cash costs attributed to the expenditure items which would result in the near cash expenditure being significantly different from the resource expenditure.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's projections for repayment to the Exchequer for funding for urgent operational requirements are for each financial year for which figures are available. [245107]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department's Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 settlement made provision of £200 million in 2010-11 to meet the cost of repaying to HM Treasury a proportion of urgent operational requirement (UOR) costs in 2008-09, with the aim of ensuring that these arrangements are cost-neutral for the Defence budget. We currently expect UOR repayments in 2010-11 to fall within this £200 million envelope.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest versions of the cost of defence output categories taxonomy. [245127]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have placed the most recent version of the Cost of Defence outputs taxonomy in the Library of the House; this was updated in December 2007.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's response to HM Treasury's consultation paper on accounting for PPP arrangements, including PFI contracts. [245312]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes, I have placed a copy of the Department's responses to HM Treasury's letters referenced RABIG (2007) 23 entitled "Accounting for PPP Arrangements, including PFI, under IFRS" and RABIG (2008) 03 entitled "Accounting for PPP arrangements, including PFI, under IFRS: text for the IFRS-based Financial Reporting Manual (iFReM)" in the Library of the House.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246987]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The use of 0845 numbers and others that charge at a similar rate is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and obtained directly from the supplier. Records of such numbers are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps are taken to monitor civilian populations who have been in danger of exposure to depleted uranium; and how many persons so exposed have responded to newspaper advertisements and have been voluntarily tested for contamination. [246605]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is the responsibility of sovereign states where depleted uranium (DU) munitions have been used to monitor for any possible health risk to the civilian population. The Ministry of Defence has conducted environmental surveys for DU in southern Iraq and the Balkans. No widespread DU contamination sufficient to impact the health of the general population or deployed personnel has been found in these surveys. Similar studies have been carried out by the United Nations in the Balkans and Kuwait and information presented at a recent conference suggests that the results of environmental monitoring by Iraqi scientists will be published later this year.

In 2004-05, the independent Depleted Uranium Oversight Board (DUOB) placed adverts in UK newspapers announcing the availability of a retrospective testing programme for the analysis of uranium isotopes in urine. The test was offered to eligible ex-Service or serving personnel and certain categories of civilians who served in the Persian Gulf area between 1 August 1990 and 31 July 1991 or in the former Republic of Yugoslavia on or after 5 August 1994. A total of 496 individuals took up the offer to be tested. No evidence

of the excretion of DU was found in the urine of any of the individuals tested. As far as we are aware, there has been no other initiative of this type.

Disposal Services Agency: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of its staffing budget for 2007-08 the Disposal Services Agency spent in Scotland; and what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [241121]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Disposal Services Authority

	Scottish personnel costs (£000s)	*Percentage of personnel costs spent in Scotland*
2004-05	148.8	5.1
2005-06	193.9	4.3
2006-07	218.5	5.0
2007-08	205.0	5.4

Ex-Servicemen

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1171W, on ex-servicemen, for what reasons the actual number given is lower than the required number in each case; and what steps he is taking to increase the actual numbers where these do not meet requirements. [242841]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information provided represented a snapshot, and in each case where the actual number of resettlement staff was below the required number, this was the result of natural and temporary gapping of posts, as a result of promotion, transfers etc. of the previous incumbent. In each case normal recruitment or posting action, depending on whether the post was civilian- or military-filled, is being undertaken to fill the vacancies, and it is not intended to leave the posts vacant for any longer than necessary to complete recruitment action.

FCR Scoping Study

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* FCR Scoping Study, *(b)* FOM Mapping Study, *(c)* DRMP Information Strategy and *(d)* DRMS Information Systems Strategy produced for his Department. [245129]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will arrange for copies to be placed in the Library of the House.

Future Carrier Programme

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current in-service dates are for the Future Carrier programme; and if he will make a statement. [245102]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 766W, to the hon. Member for New Forest, East (Dr. Lewis).

Gray Review

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the terms of reference of the Bernard Gray review are; and when it is due to report; [245106]

(2) pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 11 December, *Official Report*, column 65WS, on defence equipment, what the terms of reference are for the defence acquisition review; and when it will report. [245203]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Within the policy set by the Defence Industrial Strategy, the review is to examine progress with implementing reforms through the MOD's Acquisition Change Programme and to make any further recommendations on how to secure better value for money and deliver major acquisition programmes within budget and on time.

The review is expected to be complete by the summer.

Iraq: Legal Systems

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 18 December 2008 on Iraq, what legal protection UK forces will have under either international or Iraqi domestic law if the draft law on the status of UK forces currently before the Iraq Parliament is not brought into effect by 1 January 2009. [246828]

Mr. Hutton: UK forces in Iraq have the legal basis they need to complete their tasks. On 1 January 2009, Iraqi Council of Representatives Resolution 50/2008 came into effect, authorising the temporary presence of UK forces in Iraq and providing specific legally-binding jurisdictional immunities for UK personnel as set out in the Iraqi Council of Ministers Resolution 439/2008. On the same date, a Government-to-Government Memorandum of Understanding came into effect, setting out the tasks that the Government of Iraq have requested that we continue and complete by 31 May 2009.

I am placing copies of the texts of both resolutions and the Memorandum of Understanding in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British service personnel have been *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed by friendly fire in Iraq since 2003. [240350]

Mr. Hutton: Records show that eight members of the UK armed forces have been killed as a result of friendly fire incidents in Iraq since 2003, although it is not always possible in each and every case precisely to determine the cause of death. Details of the number of UK military personnel injured by friendly fire incidents are not recorded centrally.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what equipment he plans to gift to Iraq once Operation Archive is under way. [244622]

Mr. Hutton: As the Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 18 December, we plan to reduce force levels in Iraq as we complete our remaining key tasks in Basra in the early months of next year. Planning for the withdrawal of UK forces continues and any proposal to gift equipment to Iraq would follow established procedures.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces bases have been established in Southern Iraq in each year since 2003; what the *(a)* location and *(b)* names of each is; and on which date each was vacated. [245226]

Mr. Hutton: The UK armed forces bases established and subsequently vacated in Iraq since 2003 are as follows:

Base name	*Year established*	*Location*	*Date of vacation*
Camp Chindit	2003	Az Zubayr	29 September 2005
Camp Smitty	2004	As Samawaha	30 July 2006
Camp Abu Naji	2003	Maysan	30 August 2006
Old State Building (Al-Saie)	2003	Basrah	20 March 2007
Shaat Al'Arab Hotel	2003	Basrah	8 April 2007
Shaibah Logistics Base	2003	Basrah	24 April 2007
Basra Palace	2003	Basrah	5 September 2007
Contingency Operating Base (COB)	2003	Basrah	UK forces remain in residence

This table does not include details of occasions when UK forces have operated from bases run by other coalition partners. It also does not include details of small temporary operating bases.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attacks of each type have been launched against UK armed forces bases in southern Iraq since 1 May 2003. [245227]

Mr. Hutton: The following table contains details of all reported attacks against multi-national force bases in MND(SE) since the period requested. To distinguish between attacks against UK bases and those of other coalition partners would incur disproportionate costs.

	Total number of reported attacks[1]
2003	39
2004	732
2005	111
2006	820
2007	1,374
2008	108

[1] The data cut-off point is 18 December 2008.

Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability Programme

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on the project cost of a later than originally planned in-service date of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme; [244573]

(2) when he expects the main decisions on funding for the *(a)* Fleet Tanker, *(b)* Fleet Solid Support and *(c)* Joint Sea-Based Logistic elements of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme to be made. [244574]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is in its assessment phase.

It is MOD policy not to publish in-service dates or project costs, including demonstration and manufacturing costs, while procurement programmes are still in their assessment phase.

We have reviewed the Fleet Tanker element of the MARS programme and have concluded that there is scope for considering alterative approaches to its procurement. We expect to determine a way forward in 2009, after which the main investment decision will be taken. The later classes of MARS ship, Fleet Solid Support and Joint Sea Based Logistic, are at an earlier stage of their procurement than the Fleet Tankers. It is, therefore, too early to determine when their main investment decisions will be taken.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft are in-service with the Royal Air Force, broken down by type. [245062]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers of aircraft in service with the RAF on 31 March 2009 as contained in the latest RAF Management Plan are detailed in the following table:

Aircraft type	*Fleet number*
Typhoon	54
Tornado GR	136
Tornado F3	64
Harrier	77
Nimrod MR2	15
Nimrod R	3
Nimrod MRA4	1
Tristar	9
VC10	15
Sentry	7
Sentinel	5
Hercules K	14
Hercules J	24
C-17	6
BAe 146	2
BAe 125	6

Aircraft type	Fleet number
Sea King	25
Dominie	9
Hawk T1	107
Hawk T2	4
Tucano	95
Vigilant	64
Viking	82

These figures are used for planning purposes and the actual numbers of aircraft in service on 31 March 2009 will be dependent on a combination of delivery plans, withdrawals from service and aircraft lost through accidents or other circumstances.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fleets of helicopters are available to UK armed forces in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what future (i) enhancements to the helicopters and (ii) changes to the number of helicopters are planned by his Department. [244575]

Mr. Hutton: We currently have Apache, Chinook, Lynx and Sea King helicopters deployed in Afghanistan and Merlin, Puma and Lynx helicopters deployed in Iraq. I am withholding the number of helicopters we have deployed or will deploy as release would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

As I set out in my written ministerial statement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-67W, we intend to upgrade 12 Lynx Mk9 helicopters with new T800 engines in order to enhance the capability of those helicopters to operate effectively in Afghanistan. We already have work in hand to revert eight Chinook Mk3 aircraft to deliver additional capability from late 2009 and I have set out our intention to deliver additional Apache capability to Afghanistan and switch the Merlin Force there once its mission in Iraq is complete.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Future Lynx aircraft his Department plans to procure; and if he will make a statement. [245105]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Under the revised arrangements for the Future Lynx project announced on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-66WS, we now plan to buy 34 Future Lynx helicopters for the Army and 28 for the Royal Navy. These new arrangements will provide increased commonality leading to greater versatility and flexibility. The In-Service dates remain as 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Military Aircraft: Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to allow French *(a)* fixed-wing and *(b)* rotary-wing aircraft on (i) HMS Prince of Wales and (ii) HMS Queen Elizabeth. [245993]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While there are currently no plans for French aircraft to operate from HMS Prince of Wales or HMS Queen Elizabeth, it is standard practice for fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft from allied nations to embark each other's ships for training purposes.

Nimrod MRA4 Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* adopting and *(b)* maintaining annually the (i) Nimrod MRA4 platform and (ii) American Rivet Joint for his Department's purposes; [244033]

(2) how many jobs would be *(a)* created and *(b)* maintained as a result of ordering the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft; [244034]

(3) what estimate he has made of the service life of the *(a)* Nimrod MRA4 and *(b)* American Rivet Joint aircraft; and if he will make a statement; [244035]

(4) what range of attack weapons the *(a)* Nimrod MRA4 and *(b)* American Rivet Joint aircraft can carry. [244036]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Nimrod Maritime Reconnaissance and Attack (MRA4) and the US Rivet Joint aircraft perform entirely different functions.

The MRA4 aircraft is being procured to provide maritime patrol, anti-shipping, anti-submarine and search and rescue capability. It will take over from the Nimrod Maritime Reconnaissance (MR2) aircraft. The cost of the programme for the nine MRA4 aircraft currently on order is some £3.6 billion. Support costs are currently being examined. When it comes into service, the MRA4 will carry Stingray torpedoes but through life it can be adapted to carry an extensive range of weapons and equipment including anti-ship and anti-submarine weapon systems. Its current estimated service life is 25 years. We estimate that there are around 800 jobs associated with MRA4 production at Woodford working for the contractor, BAE Systems.

The US Rivet Joint system provides an integrated airborne electronic surveillance capability. It is not equipped with attack weapons. The costs of adopting and maintaining the Rivet Joint aircraft to meet the UK's Helix airborne electronic surveillance requirement are being assessed, along with those of using the Nimrod MRA4 and Nimrod R1 platforms, as part of the preparations for a main investment decision expected in 2009. The Helix programme envisages the provision of capability out to the 2025 period.

Nuclear Accident Response Organisation: Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many Airwave handsets issued to the Nuclear Accident Response Organisation have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the organisation have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year; [246181]

(2) how many Airwave handsets issued to *(a)* the Ministry of Defence Police and *(b)* the Ministry of Defence Guard Service have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to each service have been disabled by the service

provider through (i) loss, (ii) breakage and (iii) other reasons in each such year; [246182]

(3) how many Airwave handsets issued to armed forces units based on the UK mainland have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to UK-based forces have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No Airwave handsets have been lost by the Nuclear Accident Response Organisation.

The number of Airwave handsets reported as lost by the Ministry of Defence Police, the Ministry of Defence Guard Service and armed forces units based on the UK mainland is as follows:

	2005		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Lost	*Recovered*	*Lost*	*Recovered*	*Lost*	*Recovered*	*Lost*	*Recovered*
Ministry of Defence Police	8	5	14	7	33	26	18	15
Ministry of Defence Guard Service	—	—	0	n/a	3	2	2	1
Armed Forces	5	4	2	0	6	2	15	6

n/a = Not applicable.
Note:
MGS received Airwave Radios in 2006.

Airwave handsets are disabled within one hour of being reported lost.

Records of airwave handsets reported damaged or with technical failures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. All repairable handsets are not disabled but are repaired and reconfigured for use.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 754W, on nuclear submarines, on what date the number of operative submarine berths at Southampton was increased from one to two; and when such berths were redesignated from Z to operational submarine berths. [244580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of berths, as determined by the Port Authority at Southampton, has always been two; but they are only cleared to support one submarine at any one time. With respect to when berths were re-designated from Z to Operational submarine berth, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 849W.

Nuclear Weapons: Testing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason his Department commissioned an exercise to decontaminate the atomic test sites on Kiritimati in 2005. [246872]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Work on Kiritimati Island was commissioned in response to a request from the Government of Kiribati for the removal of the military waste (not necessarily decontamination) resulting from military activity during the 1950s and 1960s.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what levels of radioactivity were recorded during the 2005 decontamination exercise on Kiritimati; what materials were recovered during the exercise; what types of contamination were removed from the island; and at what levels. [246874]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Removal of waste arising from the UK nuclear weapons test programme on the island of Kiritimati was undertaken between 2005 and 2008. Previous survey work had identified elevated levels of radioactivity associated with the presence of radium-226, commonly used to luminise vehicle instruments at the time of the test programme, but no other elevated levels of radioactivity substances were identified during the 2005 and 2008 programme.

The materials (including non-radioactive) comprised approximately:

	Cubic metres/kg
Bitumen	15,000 cubic metres
Metal items	25,000 cubic metres
Rubber	150 cubic metres
Asbestos	150 cubic metres
Radium luminised dials	175 kg

A total of 111 individual locations were identified where elevated levels of radioactivity associated with radium-226 were present. Removal of the radium required both the actual instrument and a small quantity of soil to be taken from the site.

The highest radioactive material fell into the low level waste category.

All of the sites were extremely localised with radium-226 restricted to an area of no more than a few square metres.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246348]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held centrally in the form requested. The Department's policy for recruitment follows the Civil Service Management Code. A criminal conviction or prison sentence does not in itself prevent an individual from being employed by the Department: decisions are based on suitability for employment based on the nature of any convictions and the role for which they are being considered, and

taking into account legal requirements concerning rehabilitation of offenders. The details of the character enquiries which would show unspent convictions are held on individual personal files, and the number of those who may have served a prison sentence could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Operation Atlanta

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all vessels comprising the EU Operation Atlanta under the command of Rear Admiral Phil Jones fly the European Union flag; and from what position the flag is displayed on each vessel. [245225]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On 3 December the EU Force Commander of Operation Atlanta issued an instruction to the EU task force that all vessels in the force should fly the European Union flag in addition to their national ensigns.

The EU flag will be flown from the yard arm; this is the position in which the NATO flag would be flown if the vessels were participating in a NATO operation. National ensigns will continue to be flown from the number one position on the stern or main mast.

Peace Operations Training Centre

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to support the Peace Operations Training Centre in Sarajevo after responsibility for running the centre has been transferred to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities. [244534]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Sarajevo is a UK-led organisation that is owned and managed jointly with Bosnia and Herzegovina and 13 other international partners. A date for the transfer of ownership to Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to be agreed formally but is not likely to be before 2013. Subject to our partners' agreement we expect the UK to remain the lead nation until then. It is too early at this stage to consider what our involvement might be after that date.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average amount of time was between the first contact signalling activation of a reserve member of the armed forces and that individual's mobilisation date in each year since 2000. [246700]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held. I can confirm that in preparation for Operation TELIC in 2003 large numbers of Reservists were called out, some at very short notice. This was because the rapidly developing situation in Iraq at that time required us to act quickly and we were not able to give as much notice to Reservists as we would have wished. Since then, the mobilisation process now ensures that Reserve units receive advance notice that they will be required to provide individuals to support a specific operation (this can be up to six months notice). More importantly, once Reservists have been selected for mobilisation, we have tried to ensure that, whenever possible, a minimum notice of 28 days is given to the individual and his employer before the Reservist reports for duty. In many cases it is far more than 28 days. However, it must be accepted that the nature of military operations means that inevitably individuals may receive less notice of mobilisation due to rapidly changing requirements.

Reserve Forces: Training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions individual reservists' scheduled two-week training camps have been rescheduled within two months of the scheduled date in each year since 2000. [246702]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is not held.

Security: Airports

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of security measures at British airports, with particular reference to those used for departures of flights transporting troops overseas. [245863]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All commercial flights departing the UK are regulated by the National Aviation Security Programme and are subject to routine inspection, audits and tests by the Department for Transport, as well as inspection by EC officials. The security measures applied at airports used for troop movements are commensurate with the current threat.

Somalia: Piracy

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances the cost of pirates arrested by British units off Somalia may be delivered to *(a)* countries where attached vessels are registered, *(b)* countries where capital punishment is possible, *(c)* the UK, *(d)* jurisdictions within the EU, *(e)* the UN and *(f)* a third party. [243699]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Every incident of piracy is different and the decision over the transfer of suspected pirates to a third party state, or to bring them back to the UK for prosecution, will always be considered on a case by case basis.

Nevertheless, the UK transfers to third party states in accordance with its international law obligations and will always seek assurances of fair treatment and international standards of human rights.

The UK recently set up an arrangement with the Kenyan government which allows the transfer of suspected pirates to Kenya for prosecution. This can be called upon when necessary.

Submarines: Construction

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of how the building process of the Trident II will affect the building process of the Astute-class SSNs. [244743]

Mr. Hutton: Current departmental plans expect that construction of the successor to Vanguard class submarines will occur in parallel with construction of later Astute Class Submarines. The lessons learnt from the Astute programme are being applied to the design and build phase of the successor programme. Any opportunities arising from the successor programme that may benefit the Astute Class will be considered as part of normal business between closely related programmes.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Trident II systems his Department is planning to build; and what his estimate is of the interval between the delivery of each Trident II. [244762]

Mr. Hutton: The Trident II D5 ballistic missile is the delivery system for the UK's nuclear deterrent that is carried by our Vanguard-class submarines. It is an evolutionary development of the Trident IC4 missile that the UK originally planned to procure but was superseded by a decision in 1982 to procure the Trident II D5 missile. As we made clear in the December 2006 White Paper: "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994), we are participating in a programme to extend the life of the Trident II D5 missile until around 2042.

With regard to the new class of submarines to replace the Vanguard-class, as we have previously stated, the first of class is forecast to enter service in around 2024. Also, as explained in the December 2006 White Paper, a final decision on the number of submarines that will be procured will be made when we know more about their detailed design. That decision will determine the timetable for entry into service of further submarines.

Submarines: Safety

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department is planning to spend on submarine safety, with particular reference to *(a)* hull structure, *(b)* hydromechanics and *(c)* maritime life support in each of the next five years. [244736]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Maintaining safety is an integral part of all aspects of submarine development, procurement, operation and support, whether carried out by the MOD, its contractors or the Royal Navy. The total MOD expenditure on submarine safety cannot therefore be distinguished from the wider costs of the submarine programme.

Information about expenditure that relates only to safety is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of the Territorial Army has been in each of the last 10 years. [245114]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Armed Forces Personnel Statistics are published annually by the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) and copies are placed in the Library. The requested figures are available within DASA's Tri-Service Publication Number 7 (TSP07—UK Reserves and Cadets Strengths) reports at the following website address:

www.dasa.mod.uk/natstats/natstatsindex.html

The latest edition containing figures as at 1 April 2008 was published on 3 October 2008.

Trident Submarines: Maintenance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the maintenance cost of Trident submarines in *(a)* 2013-14 and *(b)* each of the next five years. [246939]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The estimated maintenance costs of Vanguard class submarines in 2013-14 and each of the next five years, which cover fleet maintenance and capital expenditure incurred as part of the Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) maintenance programme, are:

	Total (£ million)
2013-14	161
2014-15	148
2015-16	118
2016-17	163
2017-18	142
2018-19	137

Veterans Policy Unit: Finance

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much and what proportion of its staffing budget for 2007-08 the Veterans' Policy Unit spent in Scotland; and what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07. [241119]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Veterans Policy Unit has not employed any staff in Scotland in any of these years.

Veterans: Pensions

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans are members of *(a)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme 75 and *(b)* Armed Forces Pension Scheme 05. [244827]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of veterans belonging to the Armed Forces Pension Schemes (AFPS) 1975 and 2005 as at 31 March 2008 is shown in the following table.

Pension scheme	*Pensioners*[1]	*Deferred*[2]
AFPS 1975	363,087	—
AFPS 2005	674	—
Gurkhas and Minor Schemes	26,488	—
Total	390,249	324,002

[1] Pensioners are those who have left the service, their spouses and dependants, who are in receipt of a pension.

[2] Deferred are preserved pensions that are payable when an individual reaches the age of 60 (AFPS 1975) or 65 (AFPS 2005). A separate breakdown of personnel who are deferred members of AFPS 1975, AFPS 2005 and the Gurkhas and Minor Schemes cannot currently be provided.

Warships

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in deciding where to baseport the Royal Navy's frigates. [246099]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The scope of work carried out at the three naval bases (Portsmouth, Devonport and Clyde), including the base porting of Royal Navy vessels, is currently being considered as part of the Maritime Change Programme. This work is now reaching a conclusion although we need to ensure that final decisions are fully aligned with the recently announced changes to the equipment programme. An announcement on the Maritime Change Programme will be made as soon as is practicable.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biomass

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how his Department plans to assess the sustainability of large-scale wood biomass energy plants of 50 megawatts and over; and if he will take into account that assessment in the potential impact on UK wood processing industries of large biomass plants purchasing their feedstock from UK wood markets. [244240]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the reforms to the renewables obligation (RO) to take effect on 1 April 2009, we are introducing a sustainability reporting requirement for all plants using biomass to generate electricity with a net capacity greater than 50kW. Generators will be required to provide information including the type and origin of the biomass used, and whether it was certified under an environmental quality assurance scheme.

The Government recognise that sustainability includes whether using particular types of biomass for electricity generation is the best use to which it can be put, and that this is a particular concern where there are other industries that already make sustainable use of all or most of the available supply. We will continue to monitor the sustainability of biomass use for electricity generation through the above information provided by generators. In addition, the Government are engaging with the European Commission process to establish sustainability criteria for biomass for heat and power.

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether *(a)* the effect on existing wood industries and *(b)* the sustainability of material is taken into account in deciding whether to grant planning permission for large-scale biomass energy projects of 50 megawatts and over. [244241]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The sourcing and purchasing of biomass for power generation is a matter for the developer. However, previous biomass generating stations consented by the Secretary of State have included conditions aimed at ensuring only sustainable biomass is used. The Government are also introducing a sustainability reporting requirement for generators using biomass to generate electricity with a net capacity greater than 50kW, to take effect from 1 April 2009, as part of the reform of the renewables obligation.

Carbon Emissions: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement on the EU Council Afghanistan, India and Pakistan of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 814-17, what the financial mechanism is to make available funds for the commercial demonstration of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology; how much of the nine billion euro of such funding will be contributed by the United Kingdom; and when he expects the first CCS demonstration project to be commissioned. [245507]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: On 17 December 2008 the European Parliament passed the directive governing phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which will make available until 31 December 2015 up to 300 million free allowances from the new entrants' reserve for the construction and operation of up to 12 demonstration projects of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and innovative renewable energy projects. This does not require member states to make individual contributions, although any one project may claim only a maximum of 15 per cent. of the total number of allowances and projects must be co-financed by the operator. The total amount of funding that will be made available for CCS depends on the carbon price and the number of CCS projects that are put forward by the member states. The criteria for allocating allowances to projects will be determined over the next few months, but the aim of the mechanism is to stimulate investments in projects which will be operational by 2015.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 76WS, on the EU Energy Council, if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* post on his departmental website copies of the documents presented to the meeting by the Presidency and European Commission respectively; and if he will make a statement on the Government's responses to the proposals. [245607]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The documents relating to the Energy and Climate Change package, the Second Strategic European Energy Review and energy efficiency were all placed in the Library when they were first published, with Explanatory Memoranda, which set out the UK's initial position.

The documents relating to the issues discussed at the Energy Council can all be found on the European Commission's website through links on the European energy pages of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what date he expects legislation to be passed to implement the 20 per cent. increase in the carbon emissions reduction target announced by the Prime Minister on 11 September 2008. [242500]

Joan Ruddock: The amendment to the Electricity and Gas (Carbon Emissions Reduction) Order 2008 is subject to statutory consultation followed by debate in both

Houses. We intend to consult on the proposed amendments early next year, with a view to completing the legislative process by the summer recess.

Climate Change and Energy Programme

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department is contributing *(a)* resources and *(b)* personnel to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Climate Change and Energy Programme; and if he will make a statement. [243943]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change works closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on international climate change and energy issues, but is not currently contributing resources or personnel to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Climate Change and Energy Programme.

Coal: Prices

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the change in the price of domestic coal has been in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [246396]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The annual change in the price of domestic coal from 2004 is shown in the following table:

Coal and smokeless fuels, Retail Price Index (RPI)

	Cash Terms		*Real Terms*	
	Index 1990=100	*Percentage change*	*Index 1990=100*	*Percentage change*
2004	151.7	—	102.3	—
2005	167.1	10.1	110.2	7.7
2006	179.6	7.5	115.4	4.8
2007	192.5	7.2	120.3	4.2

Annual figures for 2008 are not yet available. The RPI for coal and smokeless fuels increased by 29.3 per cent in cash terms between January and November 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials have made by aeroplane in the course of their duties since his Department's inception. [246773]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what contracts to which his Department is a party continue beyond 1 July 2010. [242148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is not at present party to any contracts which continue beyond 1 July 2010, as the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of DECC has not yet come into force. Existing contracts related to energy and climate change matters will remain with BERR and DEFRA respectively until the Transfer of Function Order comes into force.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244703]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence, the Department abides by the guidance as set out in "Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies" which was published by the Cabinet Office in July 2005.

In respect of e-mails, the Department is not be able to provide the information within the disproportionate cost limit (£750) as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's budget is for financial years *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [243944]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was formed on 3 October 2008. Negotiations with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the machinery of government changes are ongoing. The budgets for DECC will be determined once negotiations are complete.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms since it was established. [244344]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not purchased any furniture since its formation on 3 October 2008.

Departmental Internet

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the design and implementation of his Department's website to date; how much is forecast to be spent on the migration of relevant information on websites belonging to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; when he expects such migration to occur; and if he will make a statement. [246357]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change's interim website is hosted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and has not required any expenditure by the Department. The Department is in the process of procuring a new website. The process for any content migration that may be required in replacing the relevant parts of other Departments' websites, and any associated costs, are still under consideration.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240473]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created on 3 October 2008, bringing together staff from the Climate Change Group of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and from the Energy Group of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). DECC at present makes use of the BERR and DEFRA accounting systems. In the case of both BERR and DEFRA accounting systems, expenditure on official hospitality is recorded as an account code. All expenditure, including that on official hospitality, is incurred, and recorded, in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Expenditure on alcohol for official hospitality is not distinguished from other expenditure on official hospitality in the accounting systems.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people his Department employs who receive a salary of over £100,000 per annum. [245875]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change does not employ any staff until it is formally constituted via the Transfer of Functions Order and Parliament votes a supply via the Spring Supplementary Estimate. Details of staff transferring from the Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are also still being finalised. Until these Machinery of Government changes have been completed, I am unable to answer this question.

Departmental Responsibilities

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost of establishing his Department has been; and how much has been spent on *(a)* relocation, *(b)* the logo, stationery, building signs and electronic media, *(c)* fees paid to advisers and consultants on establishment and *(d)* other transition costs. [246356]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, the cost of establishing the Department have been: *(a)* £54,000 on relocating and establishing staff in the new Department Headquarters in 3 Whitehall Place; *(b)* £18,000 on logo design, branding, signage and pull-up displays.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [246975]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Energy Supply

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of written advice he received from officials on competition issues prior to the meeting he held with main energy supply companies on 17 November 2008. [242485]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 18 November in which I reported to the House on the outcome of the 17 November meeting.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government is taking to ensure that energy suppliers in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and (d) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency do not increase their distant profits through increases to direct debit payments. [245841]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply in Great Britain. Responsibility for gas and electricity supply in Northern Ireland is devolved. Ofgem is currently considering the representations it has received from customers and others about suppliers' reassessments of the levels of direct debits, and is seeking explanations from suppliers. It will decide what, if any, action it should take in the light of that consideration.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the robustness of the UK MARKAL model on least cost optimisation of energy use, as used by his Department; and whether the MARKAL model is made available to *(a)* academic institutions, *(b)* non-governmental organisations and *(c)* other external bodies. [245614]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the last five years, the UK MARKAL model has been substantially upgraded allowing improved modelling of macro economic impacts and with particular emphasis on cost data. The work undertaken has been peer reviewed both in the academic community and in workshops and the model is considered state of the art. Model outputs have appeared in peer reviewed journals.

The model is available for use by anyone who is prepared to pay the licence fees and sign the memorandum of understanding which ensures transparency of use and a contribution to the modelling community.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's targets are for reducing fuel poverty; what changes have been made to these targets since October 2008; what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* other Ministers on this issue since October 2008; what recent representations he has received on fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [245082]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 requires the Government to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, persons do not live in fuel poverty. This Act (and the Fuel Poverty Strategy published under the Act) sets a target date of 2010 for the eradication of fuel poverty, so far as reasonably practicable, for vulnerable households, and 2016 for all households.

These targets were set when the strategy was first published in November 2001. These targets have not been amended since that date.

In October of this year, Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged brought a judicial review action against the Secretary of State alleging that he was failing to fulfil his statutory duties under the Act. The High Court dismissed this application. However, this decision is being appealed by Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged. The Secretary of State has received a skeleton argument from Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged which sets out the arguments in support of their appeal.

Ministers in the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) have regular discussions with colleagues in other Departments with responsibility for aspects of fuel poverty policy including those in HM Treasury.

Fuel Poverty: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce fuel poverty in Peterborough by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [244137]

Joan Ruddock: Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government. Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes.

The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy was published in November 2001 and sets out the approach of the Government (and the Devolved Administrations) for tackling fuel poverty. The latest version of the Fuel Poverty Strategy reflects the requirements of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act to do all that is reasonably practicable to end fuel poverty among vulnerable households by 2010.

The Government's Sixth Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty shows that, in England, the overall number of households estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2006 is 2.4 million of which around 1.9 million are vulnerable. This represents a rise of 900,000 households since 2005 and a rise of 700,000 vulnerable households over the same period.

Since 2000 Warm Front has been the Government's main scheme to tackle fuel poverty in private sector households to improve the energy efficiency of properties. Since 2000 Warm Front has assisted 1341 households, investing a total of £1,795,962.34 on insulation and/or heating in Peterborough.

Fuel Poverty: Tendring

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of progress towards the elimination of fuel poverty in vulnerable households in Tendring by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [242614]

Joan Ruddock: Tackling fuel poverty is a priority for the Government. Since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes.

The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy was published in November 2001 and sets out the approach of the Government (and the devolved Administrations) for tackling fuel poverty. The latest version of the Fuel Poverty Strategy reflects the requirements of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act to do all that is reasonably practicable to end fuel poverty among vulnerable households by 2010.

The Government's Sixth Annual Progress Report on Fuel Poverty shows that, in England, the overall number of households estimated to be in fuel poverty in 2006 was 2.4 million, of which around 1.9 million were vulnerable. This represents a rise of 900,000 households since 2005 and a rise of 700,000 vulnerable households over the same period.

Since 2000, Warm Front has been the Government's main scheme to tackle fuel poverty in private sector households to improve the energy efficiency of properties. Since 2005, Warm Front has assisted 3,254 households with insulation and/or heating in Tendring.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the waiting time for emergency work to be carried out under the Warm Front scheme is; and if he will make a statement. [243817]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front is not designed to be, and cannot act as, an emergency service.

Currently, eaga plc, the Scheme Manager, has a target timescale for performing the survey on a property of 21 working days following application. Following this survey, where a heating measure has been recommended the Scheme Manager has a target to complete this work within 120 working days. In practice most measures are installed well within this timeframe, with a current average waiting time for a survey of less than 10 days, and a further average waiting time of less than 66 days for the installation of a heating measure this year.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects works under the *(a)* Warm Front and *(b)* over seventies scheme in Essex to restart; and if he will make a statement. [243813]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front is an ongoing process. We are aware that the Scheme Manager eaga plc, did, with the Department's knowledge, stop allocating work

for a five day period between 3 and 9 November while a new computer upgrade was being implemented. This is now fully operational and work is being allocated an usual.

The over seventies scheme in Essex is almost certainly part of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), which commenced in April and operates throughout Great Britain. CERT places an obligation on energy suppliers to meet targets through encouraging households to take up energy efficiency measures. It is at suppliers' discretion how they meet their targets, but they will typically use subsidised offers to promote key measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, and high-efficiency lights and appliances.

Suppliers must focus 40 per cent. of their activity on a priority group of vulnerable and low-income households, which includes those over 70. All six major household energy suppliers currently offer priority group households free loft insulation (where less than 60mm already exists) and free cavity wall insulation, subject to a survey of the property.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 21 October 2008 on the monopoly of storage banks. [242435]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Unfortunately DECC has no record of having received correspondence from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 21 October 2008 on this subject. My officials have been in contact with the hon. Member's constituency office to request a copy of the letter.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244019]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department was pleased to receive the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for DECC's policies.

Microgeneration

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans are in place to implement a micro-generation strategy across all government buildings; and what the budget is for this work. [244786]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department provides grant funding for the installation of microgeneration technologies to public sector and charitable bodies through Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. This is a £50 million grant scheme that runs until June 2009. More information is available from the scheme's website at:

www.lowcarbonbuildingsphase2.org.uk.

The Government have a target to reduce carbon emissions from the Government estate by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11—the sustainable operations on the Government estate (SOGE) target. The Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) asks Departments to submit details of the plans they have established to meet this target.

The on-site generation plans that have been reported to the OGC are forecast to save over 7,000 tonnes of CO_2. The Government Delivery Plan Update, which was published on 18 December 2008 and is available from the OGC website:

www.ogc.gov.uk

contains details of departmental plans to deliver this SOGE target.

A number of Departments have already reported plans to install on-site generation technologies, some of which include microgeneration technologies. For example, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will be installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels; the Department for International Development are undertaking two projects—a wind turbine and a biomass installation; the Department for Transport will be installing a second combined heat and power (CHP) plant; the Department for Work and Pensions plan to install a wind turbine; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have plans for a biomass project and a wind turbine project; and HM Revenue and Customs plan a mixture of biomass and wind turbine projects.

DECC also plans to consider options for microgeneration on its own estate, as part of a wider strategy to improve the energy efficiency and wider sustainability of the Department.

National Grid: Standards

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on how many occasions the system frequency of the UK electricity system has been outside the limits specified in the Electricity Supply Regulations in each of the last 10 years. [242501]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The system frequency of the UK electricity system has been outside the limits specified in the electricity supply regulations twice in the last 10 year—on 27 May 2008 for nine minutes and on 26 May 2003 for 12 seconds.

Prior to May 2008, the previous reportable frequency deviation was in February 1996, which was for three minutes.

Nuclear Liabilities Fund

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. [242504]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 31 March 2008, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) estimated the value of the assets held by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) at £7.8 billion, based on the share price of British Energy at that time. Since then, HMG has committed to sell the NLF's stake in British Energy to EdF for the cash offer price of 774p per share. Assuming the sale completes, this would take the value of the NLF's assets to around £8 billion.

Nuclear Power: Finance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the remarks by the Minister of State for Energy on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 123WH, on nuclear industry finance, for what reasons a copy of the departmental minute on Sellafield indemnification was not placed in the Library following the letter of 14 July; and for what reasons the placement of the letter was checked in October 2008. [244565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As I explained during the Westminster Hall debate on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 119-26WH; the letter, from my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Energy to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, was not placed in the Library in July because of an administrative error.

Policy officials sought confirmation that the letter had been placed in the Library in October when my hon. Friend raised this as an issue. The letter was placed in the Library on the day the error was discovered.

Nuclear Power: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which insurance companies insure nuclear installations owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; in what country or countries they are based; and what criteria were applied in their selection. [244589]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority arranges insurance for its nuclear installations with the following insurers:

Type of insurance	*Insurer*	*Domicile*
All Risks including Machinery Breakdown and Business Interruption	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Construction All Risks	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Nuclear Site Liability	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Nuclear Marine Transit Liability	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Liability Package	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Primary Public/Products Liability	CNA Insurance Company (Europe) Ltd.	UK
Excess General Public/Products Liability	QBE Insurance Group Ltd.	UK
	AIG UK Ltd.	UK
Radiation Liability	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Employers' Liability	AIG UK Ltd	UK
Motor Accidental Damage, Fire and Theft	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
UK Motor Third Party Liability	Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance plc	UK
Group Sickness	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Group Life	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Personal Accident and Travel	Royal and Sun Alliance Insurance plc	UK
Marine Package	Rutherford Indemnity Ltd.	Guernsey
Third Party Airside Liability	Lloyd's underwriters	UK

Rutherford Indemnity Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The key criteria that the NDA uses in assessing potential insurers is value for money.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his statement of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 126WH, on nuclear industry finance, what additional assessment the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority made of the availability of private sector insurance for the public body to manage Sellafield. [244591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Sellafield site is managed by Sellafield Ltd., a company not a public body. The low level waste repository facility near Drigg is similarly managed by a private company. It was necessary to provide the contractor for this facility with a nuclear indemnity but before doing so I am told that the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) approached the private nuclear insurance market in 2007 in connection with insurance for nuclear liability claims to courts outside the UK and not party to the Paris and Brussels Convention. It became clear from these discussions that commercial insurers were not prepared to quote on these potential liability claims. This established an insurance industry position in principle, in light of which the NDA and its professional advisors concluded that the position that insurers would take on the specific issue at Sellafield was clear and therefore no additional conversations were required.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate DTZ made of the *(a)* employment cost and *(b)* cost to the local economy of the Cardiff-Weston Barrage in its economic impact assessment presented to the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study; and if he will make a statement. [246400]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The aim of the DTZ study is to provide an initial assessment of the potential economic impacts of proposed Severn Tidal Power schemes, including a Cardiff-Weston barrage, on the regional economies of Wales and the South West of England. In assessing economic impact the study has focused on those sectors that are expected to be most significantly impacted by tidal power development. Where possible, impacts have been quantified in terms of employment and gross value added variances.

I plan to consult on the interim findings of the Severn Tidal Power feasibility study early in the new year; the DTZ report will be published at the same time.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which consultants have been commissioned to work on the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study; in what area of work each has been commissioned; and when he plans to publish their reports. [246401]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff were awarded the contract to manage a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Severn Estuary and initial technical options assessment.

In addition, PricewaterhouseCoopers were appointed to advise on how a Severn tidal power scheme could be financed, the potential ownership options and possible government support mechanisms. DTZ were also appointed in collaboration with MDS Transmodal and Arthur D. Little to undertake an initial assessment of the potential regional economic impacts of a Severn tidal power scheme.

Subject to internal review these reports will be published alongside the public consultation in early 2009.

Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the monetary value is of the contract signed between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Nuclear Management Partners for the management of Sellafield; for what period the contract will last; what options for its extension are contained in the contract; and what provision there is in the contract for the foreign corporate partners to repatriate any profits to the US and France respectively. [244227]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the terms of the Parent Body Agreement signed with the NDA, Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) and Sellafield Ltd., NMP was appointed as the Parent Body Organisation and owner of the shareholding in Sellafield Ltd. on 24 November 2008. The Parent Body Agreement, which has no direct monetary value, is for an initial term of five years. The agreement contains extension options for two further five-year terms and one two-year term, totalling a potential 17 years, which the NDA is entitled to exercise in any order. During this contract period, NMP are entitled to receive dividends based on the fee earned by the Site Licence Company (SLC), Sellafield Ltd. This fee is dependent on the quality and effectiveness of the SLC's performance. The fee is currently anticipated to be worth around £50 million a year. There are no provisions in any of the contracts in relation to the entitlement of foreign corporate partners to repatriate any profits to the US and France respectively.

Voluntary Organisations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to publish a third sector strategy. [242515]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created on 3 October 2008, bringing together the Climate Change Group of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) with the Energy Group of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Third sector organisations have a key role in helping us to solve the twin challenges of climate change and energy supply and we are considering the most effective way of working with third sector organisations to achieve our aims, building on DEFRA's Third Sector Strategy, which was published in November 2008, and the focus on the third sector in the BERR Better Regulation Executive's Simplification Plan, which was published in December 2008.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will estimate the number of additional households that could be raised out of fuel poverty for each £1 million increase in the planned budget of the Warm Front scheme in the financial years (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [242514]

Joan Ruddock: Based on the existing specification, the Government expect Warm Front to assist between 25,000-30,000 households for every £1 million spent in each of the aforementioned years.

We do not have estimates for the number of these households that will be brought out of fuel poverty. This is because fuel poverty is dependent on variables such as fluctuations in energy prices and household income which are not possible to accurately forecast.

DECC is currently looking closely at the existing eligibility criteria for Warm Front to ensure that we are reaching those most in need. In doing so, we shall be considering the comments and recommendations made in the National Audit Office's Value for Money report on Warm Front which is due to be published in early 2009. Any proposed changes would be announced in due course.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average waiting time was between applicants applying for assistance under the Warm Front scheme and the delivery of such assistance in the latest period for which figures are available. [246878]

Joan Ruddock: The latest period for which figures are available is 1 April 2008 to 1 November 2008. The average waiting time for heating measures under Warm Front was 66 working days, against a contractual target of 120 working days. The average waiting time for insulation was 38 working days, against a contractual target of 40 working days.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims for assistance with heating made through the Warm Front scheme were rejected by his Department in the last period for which figures are available. [246879]

Joan Ruddock: All eligible households that apply to the scheme are entitled to a Warm Front grant. The measures they receive will depend on the heating and insulation requirements of the property.

Warm Front does not record the number of ineligible households that approach the scheme seeking assistance.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individuals have received assistance from the Warm Front scheme in the last 12 months. [246881]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 December 2007 and 30 November 2008, 233,178 households received assistance from the Warm Front scheme.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Warm Front scheme in assisting vulnerable individuals who require heating for their homes; and if he will make a statement. [246882]

Joan Ruddock: The National Audit Office (NAO) is currently performing a value for money review of Warm Front. The NAO anticipates publishing its report early this year.

DECC is also currently looking closely at several aspects of the scheme to ensure that we are providing the best value possible to our vulnerable customer base.

Warm Front Scheme: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was allocated by his Department for the Warm Front scheme in the last period for which figures are available. [246880]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front budget for the financial year 2008-09 is approximately £395 million.

Warm Front Scheme: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many individuals received assistance from the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last year. [246877]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of households who received Warm Front Grants in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire between 1 April 2007 and 30 March 2008.

Households assisted

	Number
Hemel Hempstead	349
Hertfordshire	2,233

HEALTH

2008 National Capabilities Survey

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the 2008 National Capabilities Survey. [245640]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2008 National Capabilities Survey (NCS) is not a document, it is a process by which the national extent of emergency preparedness is surveyed and assessed. For reasons of national security, it would not be appropriate to publish the detailed findings of the NCS or place the NHS National Report in the Library.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were admitted to accident and emergency departments in the north-east after drinking alcohol in each of the last four years. [245805]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments there were in NHS organisations in England in the most recent quarter since figures are available from his Department's Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency Services dataset. [245983]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department.

For the quarter ending September 2008, national health service trusts in England self-reported a total of 203 type 1 (major) accident and emergency services.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis which was alcohol related at the start of his or her stay there were in 2007-08, broken down by primary care trust. [244788]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on admissions in 2007-08 are not yet available. We expect these data to be available early in the new year.

Ambulance Services: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of ambulances despatched responded within eight minutes of an emergency call in the east of England in each month since May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [244205]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on performance is published by the Information Centre in the annual statistical bulletin, 'Ambulance Services, England'. Data by month are not available. The annual bulletins are available on the Information Centre for health and social care website at the following links:

'Ambulance Services, England 2005-06' is available at the following:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2005-06

'Ambulance Services, England 2006-07' is available at the following:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

'Ambulance Services, England 2007-08' is available at the following:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2007-08.

Ambulance Services: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the level of readiness of the ambulance service to respond to incidents of flooding; and if he will make a statement. [242715]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the Civil Contingences Act 2004, ambulance trusts are expected to respond appropriately to civil emergencies, including flooding.

The 2008 National Capability Survey (100 per cent. response from NHS organisations) assessed that the NHS, and particularly ambulance trusts, have contributed to multi-agency Local Resilience Forum (LRF) flood plans which have been submitted to, and reviewed by, the Environment Agency (EA).

NHS ambulance trusts are, therefore, fully involved in the flood planning process, are statutory consultees of the EA, and participate in multi-agency flood related exercises, as well as participating on LRF and associated multi-agency working groups. Recent exercise scenarios have included coastal flooding, tidal surges, fluvial flooding, surface water flooding and flooding caused by torrential rain conditions. "Lessons learned" from these exercises and real flooding events, are used by the Ambulance Service, with the relevant agencies in individual LRFs, to develop specific medical assistance protocols for the care and effective transportation of patients from flooded areas.

Ambulance trusts receive quarterly updates of EA Flood Plans pertinent to their geographic area of operational responsibility.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the arrival of *(a)* volunteer responders, *(b)* paramedics and *(c)* other ambulance service staff stops the clock for the purposes of recording the ambulance target arrival times. [246552]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the purposes of reporting ambulance response time standards, the 'clock stops' when the first emergency response vehicle arrives at the scene of the incident. For the purposes of the Category A (life-threatening) eight-minute standard, an emergency response may only be by:

an emergency ambulance; or

a rapid response vehicle equipped with a defibrillator to provide treatment at the scene; or

an approved first responder equipped with a defibrillator, who is accountable to the ambulance service; or when a health care professional is at the location of the incident, equipped with a defibrillator and deemed clinically appropriate to respond by the trust. A first responder is not a substitute for an ambulance response and an ambulance response should be dispatched to all calls attended by an approved first responder.

For the purposes of the Category A and B 19-minute standard, a permitted response is a fully equipped ambulance vehicle able to transport the patient in a clinically safe manner. This may be a car or ambulance as determined by the information received by the caller.

Anaemia

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into treatments for pernicious anaemia. [244918]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's health technology assessment programme is currently funding a project assessing deferasirox for the treatment of iron overload associated with regular blood transfusions in patients suffering with chronic anaemia; and the NIHR clinical research network is supporting a number of studies concerned with anaemia. Details of the latter can be found on the UK Clinical Research Network portfolio database at:

http://pfsearch.ukcrn.org.uk.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is not currently funding any research on pernicious anaemia. However, the MRC does fund a wider portfolio of basic haematology research which may benefit the condition.

Billing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of invoices to his Department payable to small and medium-sized enterprises which are settled within 10 days. [245913]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has configured its systems to enable its performance to be measured against 10-day targets announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2008. However, it is not possible at present to identify those suppliers that fall within the definition of 'small and medium sized enterprises'.

The first formal data collection on performance against the 10-day target is being co-ordinated across Government by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform based on November 2008 statistics. 98.02 per cent. of payments made to all suppliers, regardless of size, by the Department in November were made within 10 working days of receipt of the invoice.

Biomedicines

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions there have been between the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and specialist clinicians on future appraisals of biosimilar medicines; and if he will make a statement; [246079]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) on the safety precautions to be reflected in NICE guidances on biosimilar medicines; and what account NICE takes of the safety precautions recommended by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and the European Medicines Agency in formulating such guidance. [246084]

Phil Hope: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body and should be approached directly for information on any recent discussions with specialist clinicians.

We have not issued any guidance to NICE on the appraisal of biosimilar medicines. Any relevant advice from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and the European Medicines Agency will be taken into account by NICE in its work.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of women diagnosed with early stage breast cancer who have received HER2 testing. [245623]

Ann Keen: This information is not available centrally.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 371-76W, on cancer: drugs, what the eligible patient population for each treatment was in each *(a)* month and *(b)* year; and how many of the eligible patient population died in each (i) month and (ii) year. [246032]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Care Homes: Elderly

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 518W, on the elderly: mentally incapacitated, which of the care homes were run by *(a)* private sector companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* third sector organisations. [246062]

Phil Hope: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* care homes and *(b)* care home places for people suffering from dementia there were in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [244683]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not register care homes according to the number of people from a specific client group, such as those suffering dementia, which they may accommodate. CSCI will register a home as being able to care for at least one person from a particular client group. CSCI is able to produce data from 2004. Information from earlier years is not available centrally.

The following table shows the numbers of care homes and registered places in each local authority area within the Yorkshire and Humberside region where at least one place in the home is registered as at 15 December 2008 to provide dementia care.

Number of care homes and registered places in Yorkshire and Humberside where at least one place in the home is registered to provide dementia care[1]

Year ending 31 March		*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Barnsley	Number of care homes	13	16	16	16	15
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	642	748	748	748	722
Bradford	Number of care homes	103	99	99	93	88
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	3,423	3,350	3,355	3,160	3,063
Calderdale	Number of care homes	8	10	10	9	10
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	329	408	408	383	434
Derbyshire	Number of care homes	1	1	1	1	1
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	60	60	60	60	60
Doncaster	Number of care homes	27	27	27	27	26
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	1,043	1,043	1,047	1,047	1,008
East Riding of Yorkshire	Number of care homes	110	105	103	100	99
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	3,530	3,397	3,434	3,408	3,410
Kingston upon Hull	Number of care homes	52	51	51	52	52
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	1,832	1,826	1,826	1,851	1,876
Kirklees	Number of care homes	16	16	16	16	16
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	715	708	708	739	739
Leeds	Number of care homes	45	44	43	42	43

Number of care homes and registered places in Yorkshire and Humberside where at least one place in the home is registered to provide dementia care[1]

Year ending 31 March		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	1,905	1,895	1,877	1,871	1,967
North East Lincolnshire	Number of care homes	28	27	28	29	30
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	974	957	984	1,000	1,043
North Lincolnshire	Number of care homes	26	28	29	30	31
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	948	999	1,017	1,043	1,127
North Yorkshire	Number of care homes	58	61	60	62	67
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	2,036	2,173	2,255	2,430	2,753
Rotherham	Number of care homes	19	19	19	19	19
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	1,090	1,090	1,090	1,090	1,090
Sheffield	Number of care homes	41	39	41	42	41
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	2,070	1,997	2,077	2,139	2,099
Wakefield	Number of care homes	31	32	32	32	32
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	1,389	1,409	1,409	1,409	1,409
York	Number of care homes	12	11	12	12	10
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	536	517	597	597	511
Unknown[2]	Number of care homes	—	—	—	—	2
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	—	—	—	—	149
	Total number of care homes	590	586	587	582	582
	Total number of registered places in homes (for all client groups)	22,522	22,577	22,892	22,977	23,450

[1] Homes are not registered according to the actual number of places they have for each client group. They indicate which groups they can provide at least one place for. The number of registered places shown is for all client groups homes have informed CSCI they can accommodate as at 15 December 2008. This is because CSCI does not hold historic data for client group registration.
[2] Local council data are derived from the postcode of the service. Where post code is not provided the service is recorded as Unknown.
Source:
CSCI database (static cut 02/09/08).

Carers

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what support the NHS national operating framework gives to carers with respite care and funding for short breaks; [246408]

(2) what assistance is provided by his Department for carers' training; and if he will make a statement; [246409]

(3) how the NHS national operating framework is intended to assist carers; and if he will make a statement. [246410]

Phil Hope: The operating framework for the national health service, which sets out the specific business and financial arrangements for the NHS in any given year, first made specific references to supporting carers in the 2008-09 report. The recently published operating framework for 2009-10 goes further. It requires primary care trusts (PCTs) to work with their local authority partners and publish joint plans on how their combined funding will support breaks for carers, including short breaks, in a personalised way.

£150 million will be included in PCT allocations over the next two years. £50 million will be provided in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11. This money will support all carers.

The 2006 White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say' announced the New Deal for Carers. It included Caring with Confidence (CwC)—a training programme for carers. The first training commenced in August 2008 and distance-training modules will be available from January 2009. It is being run by a consortium led by the Expert Patients Programme and includes the three main carers' organisations (Carers UK, Crossroads and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers) and Partners in Policymaking. £4.4 million per year has been allocated to fund this programme.

The delivery of CwC will be through existing local providers of services—whether from the third or statutory sectors. Local providers have been invited to become part of this delivery process, through a nationally advertised tendering process; from this work CwC will put in place a national network of local providers.

Carers: Advisory Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department's carers' information service and helpline have been established. [245731]

Phil Hope: The website will go live toward the end of January 2009, with some 200 pages of information and another 600 pages will be added by the end of March 2009.

The Department has awarded a contract to bss (a charity that specialises in not-for-profit helplines) to provide the helpline (available by phone, e-mail and post). It is anticipated that the helpline will be in place in April 2009.

Child Health Promotion Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the schedule to and guidance on the most recent update of the Child Health Promotion Programme was published. [245755]

Ann Keen: The updated Child Health Promotion Programme Guide, for children up to five years of age, was published and launched on 17 March 2008.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has conducted or evaluated on the relationship between myalgic encephalopathy/chronic fatigue syndrome and mitochondrial damage. [244739]

Ann Keen: Neither the Department nor the Medical Research Council is funding research on the relationship between chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalopathy and mitochondrial damage.

Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health, Research and Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the work of Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health, Research and Care; and if he will make a statement. [245767]

Dawn Primarolo: Nine of the national health service and university partnerships that earlier this year bid for collaboration for leadership in applied health research and care (CLAHRC) status were successful. Their National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding began on 1 October 2008 and is for a period of five years.

An evaluation of the CLAHRC initiative is being commissioned via the NIHR service delivery and organisation programme. Details are available at:

www.sdo.nihr.ac.uk/currentcalls.html

Community Care: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local councils received a preventative technology grant in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [245732]

Phil Hope: All councils in England with social service responsibilities received a preventative technology grant in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Full details are in Local Authority Circular LAC (2006)5 which has been placed in the Library.

Connecting For Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, on connecting for health, what the maximum potential sum for each contract is. [246029]

Mr. Bradshaw: The maximum potential sum for each of the national programme for information technology core contracts is the total sum payable to the supplier over the lifetime of the contract. This figure for each contract is in the table.

Core contracts

	£ million
London	1,021.0
South	1,104.0
North East	1,035.0
East	930.0
North West and West Midland	1,042.0
Spine	889.0
N3 network	530.0
Choose and Book	144.5

Note:
2004-05 prices: reported in The National Programme for IT in the NHS: Project Progress Report (National Audit Office 16 May 2008)

Contraceptives: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of the contraception pill by female teenagers. [245846]

Dawn Primarolo: One of the aims of the Government's Sexual Health and HIV Strategy and Teenage Pregnancy Strategy is to reduce teenage pregnancies. It is therefore vital that sexually active young people have access to the full range of methods of contraception, including the contraceptive pill. It is, however, for the health care professional, in conjunction with the young woman, to decide the most suitable method of contraception for her.

Cooperation and Competition Panel

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date the Cooperation and Competition Panel was launched; and if he will make a statement. [246054]

Mr. Bradshaw: Lord Carter of Coles, Chair of the Cooperation and Competition Panel (The Panel) has publicly stated that the Panel would open for referrals in January 2009.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports he has received of the prevalence of new variant CJD in the population carrying the MV gene; and what steps he is taking in response to such reports. [246359]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been a total of 167 cases of clinical vCJD in the United Kingdom. All of these patients have been of MM genotype. There has been one reported case of sub-clinical vCJD in a person of MV genotype, who died of an unrelated cause without having developed clinical symptoms of vCJD.

In December 2008, BBC Newsnight reported a case of CJD in a patient of MV genotype. As part of a well established system, all known suspect cases of CJD are reviewed and followed up by the National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh and the National Prion Unit in London. To date, the National CJD Surveillance Unit has not identified a definite or probable case of vCJD in a non-MM genotype individual.

The measures that have been put in place to minimise the risk of person to person transmission of vCJD are appropriate for the whole population, irrespective of the genotype of the patient.

Dementia

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the role of the NHS national operating framework is with regard to supporting a national dementia strategy. [246407]

Phil Hope: The National Dementia Strategy has been identified as a priority in the National Operating Framework for primary care trusts (PCTs) for both this year and next. Early intervention in cases of dementia by PCTs is cost-effective and can improve quality of life for people with dementia and their families.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245324]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) wrote to all Directors in November 2008 requiring them to seek assurance from contractors and suppliers within their area of responsibility that they are aware of, and comply with, the Government's security standards set out in the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action. The response to this exercise will be recorded in end of year assurance statements in March 2009.

Security and information assurance conditions are available for use by NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) and the wider NHS in relevant tendering exercises, i.e. where personal or other confidential information will be used, disseminated or handled by the relevant public body or any third party associated with the contract (including but not limited to ICT contracts). These conditions fully comply with the latest data handling procurement policy guidance published by OGC in November 2008. NHS PASA is in the process of contacting its own suppliers to ensure they are compliant with the Government security standards.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory products Agency (MHRA) and all its suppliers are compliant with the Government's security standards and the Data Handling Procedures.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245345]

Mr. Bradshaw: Neither the Department nor its agencies, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency or the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, have any contracts allowing contractors to store personal data of United Kingdom citizens overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245363]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department appointed a senior information risk owner (SIRO) on 15 March 2004 in response to a letter from Cabinet Office in February 2004, and consequently before the requirements for such an appointment in the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government" and the accompanying document "Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action".

The SIRO is a director general.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245387]

Mr. Bradshaw: All the Department's information technology (IT) systems meet the requirements set out in the Security Policy Framework (SPF), the "Data Handling Report" (DHR) and related "Cross Government Actions: Minimum Mandatory Measures". They also comply with ISO27001, the standard for Information Security Management.

Of its agencies, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency's IT systems are fully certified to ISO27001 and they are required to comply with the requirements of the SPF and the DHR.

The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory products Agency and all its suppliers are compliant with the Government's security standards and the data handling procedures.

Departmental Deposits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what deposits *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS has overseas. [246566]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health has no deposits overseas.

The Department does not hold any information on the individual deposits held by national health service trusts, primary care trusts or strategic health authorities.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* sterling and *(b)* foreign exchange deposits (i) his Department and (ii) the NHS has abroad. [246567]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has no sterling or foreign exchange deposits abroad.

The Department does not hold any information on the individual sterling or foreign exchange deposits held by national health service trusts, primary care trusts or strategic health authorities.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246021]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department holds workforce data on sex, ethnicity, age and disability and will be collecting data on sexual orientation and religion or belief, which will be available in 2009. These data are used to track progress, on a quarterly and annual basis, against its diversity targets.

This year the Department has exceeded the Cabinet Office targets for women, black and minority ethnic staff and disabled staff in the senior civil service, apart from those for women in top management posts.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been made to his Department since 2005; how many such requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by his Department in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [245078]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table provides a breakdown of the number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act to the Department since 2005; requests agreed to and refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each year; and how many appeals were successful. A copy of the material provided in each successful appeal to the Information Commissioner has been placed in the Library.

Legal advice on Information Commissioner appeals is provided to the Department by Department of Health Legal Services, which is part of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Legal Group. Department of Health Legal Services provides a full range of legal services to the Department of Health including arranging representation in court. The Department has not directly employed consultants or separate law firms in connection with any Information Commissioner appeals. Elements of the Department employ law firms during the course of their business and, as such, may contribute to the Department's handling of ICO appeals. The Department of Health's Connecting for Health and Commercial Directorate use separate lawyers. To extract the component regarding appeals can be achieved only at a disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Freedom of Information Act requests to the Department of Health from Quarter 1 2005 to Quarter 2 2008; requests agreed to and refused in each of those years; how many refusals subject to appeal to Information Commissioner in each year; how many appeals were successful; costs for Department of Health opposing each appeal

	Total FOI requests	Agreed	Refused[2] (table 3)	ICO appeals[3] (table 7)	Successful appeals[2]
2005	1,203	[4]708	128	6	0
2006	1,411	[4]929	114	24	2
2007 (table 8)	1,286	[4]820	153	18	0
2008	[3]672	[4]201	46	[5]—	[5]—
Totals	4,231	2,658	441	48	2

[1] Includes partially and fully withheld.
[2] Includes upheld in full/upheld in part.
[3] Quarters 1 and 2 only.
[4] Includes granted in full/partially upheld.
[5] To be published in the Ministry of Justice annual report expected in June 2009.
Note:
Data extracted from Annual and Quarterly statistics published by the Ministry of Justice (formerly Department for Constitutional Affairs).

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246651]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the number of complaints made about departmental advertising to the Advertising Standards Authority is not kept centrally and to gather the information would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243738]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the Department's Code of Business Conduct, public money must not be used to fund occasions such as social gatherings, retirement or office parties.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243047]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department recognises the important contribution that the public can make in developing policy and carry out a wide range of activities which allow Ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders in developing policy.

Data from 2000 on the number of citizens' juries and consultation with a random panel of people to aid decision-making by the Department is not readily available. Supplying the occurrences of citizens' juries and deliberative consultations would require a substantive investigation into all public engagement programmes undertaken by various divisions within the Department at a disproportionate cost.

However, we can identify some of the recent major occasions that the Department has convened citizens' juries or consulted random panels of people who were paid since 2000. These include:

Potential impact of opt-out system for Organ Donation (2008)

Review into the Consequences of Additional Private Drugs for the NHS (2008)

NHS Next Stage Review—led by Lord Darzi (2007-08)

Primary and Community Care Review (2008)

Carer's Strategy Consultation (2007-08)

Your health, your care, your say (2005)

Choosing Health (2004).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on banner stands bearing his image and title since his appointment; and how many such stands have been procured. [246857]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not spent any monies on procuring or designing banner stands bearing the Secretary of State's image and title since his appointment.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (y) his Department and (z) each of his Department's agencies. [242255]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the form that has been requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Senior Civil Servants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what remuneration packages senior civil servants in his Department receive; and what benefits in kind each has received in the last 12 months. [245982]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of the remuneration packages for the Department's Directors-General are shown in the Remuneration Report part of the annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Department's Resource Accounts for the financial year 2007-08 has already been placed in the Library and can be accessed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_089421

The Department Resource Accounts for financial year 2008-09 will be laid before Parliament in 2009 and placed in the Library, in line with standard procedures.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246973]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department runs or supports six 0845 telephone numbers for use by the public.

Two of these numbers, those serving recruitment for social care and social workers, will be moved over to the new 0300 tariff by the end of February. The use of 0845 numbers for the other four lines is currently under review.

The Department's Executive agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency have no 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers for use by the public.

Diabetes: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 had *(a)* type one and *(b)* type two diabetes in the Bexley Primary Care Trust area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [244753]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are an estimated 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority Type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may also be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Domestic Violence: Ethnic Groups

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department's report on developing effective responses for Asian women experiencing domestic violence was published. [245750]

Phil Hope: The report 'Effective mental health responses for Asian women experiencing domestic Violence' will be published early in 2009.

Down's Syndrome: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into Down's syndrome in each of the last five years. [245856]

Phil Hope: The available information is shown in the following table.

£000

	Department of Health	Medical Research Council
2003-04	111	183
2004-05	137	21
2005-06	178	71
2006-07	221	107
2007-08	299	112

The Departmental figures relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include the significant expenditure on Down's syndrome research from the research and development allocations that have over the last 10 years been made annually to national health service providers. That information is not held centrally.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Drugs: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of drug and alcohol support personnel employed in each of the principal seaside towns of England. [245006]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people employed in drug and/or alcohol treatment services is not collected centrally.

Eating Disorders: Internet

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings his Department has had with internet service providers regarding websites which are pro-anorexia or pro-bulimia. [245489]

Ann Keen: The Department has had no meetings with internet service providers about pro-anorexia or pro-bulimia websites.

The Government are concerned about the risks posed by websites which encourage anorexia or bulimia. We continue to explore a variety of courses of action. For example, we have worked with a media agency which offered their expertise pro bono to run advertisements directing youngsters to more appropriate sites.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps his Department has taken to promote awareness among parents of the dangers of pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia websites. [246089]

Ann Keen: Responsibility for the regulation of the internet rests with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Government are concerned about the risks posed by websites which encourage anorexia or bulimia. However, these sites are not in themselves illegal, and may be hosted by internet service providers based overseas, so the Government are normally unable to take legal action against them.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W, on elderly: abuse, what each of the 15 reports of serious case reviews was; and what account was taken of them in the drafting of the consultation document. [245234]

Phil Hope: Of the 15 reports analysed for the draft research study on serious case reviews, to be published this winter, 10 involved a fatality and evidence of neglect or abuse (whether or not such neglect or abuse was clearly causative of death). The remainder involved either sexual assault, or institutional abuse. Of the 15 reports, seven of the cases involved neglect or abuse taking place at the service user's home.

The development of the consultation document involved consideration of a wide range of information and views from a wide range of key stakeholders. The information from the draft research report on serious case reviews provided useful information to help formulate the questions asked in the consultation document about serious case reviews.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish a response to the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Electro-Magnetic Radiation report on high voltage power lines and health; and if he will make a statement. [244745]

Dawn Primarolo: A Government response to the First Interim Assessment published by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields is likely to be published early in 2009.

Food: Safety

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 450W, on food: safety, where the 21 public analyst laboratories are located. [245679]

Dawn Primarolo: The laboratories are located in Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London (Acton), Morley (Leeds), Llanelli, Manchester, Norwich, Preston, Southsea, Stafford, Stourport, Taunton, West Malling, Wigston (Leicestershire) and Wolverhampton.

General Practitioners: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP practices depend on the minimum practice income guarantee to continue in operation. [246856]

Mr. Bradshaw: At present around 91 per cent. of general medical services (GMS) general practitioner practices receive the minimum practice income guarantee. In the vast majority of practices these protection payments make up only a small proportion of their total national health service income. However we estimate that in just over 1 per cent. of GMS practices the minimum practice income guarantee comprises more than 25 per cent. of their total NHS income.

Health Services: Elderly

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions have been made to enable older people with debilitating health conditions to travel to treatment centres outside their locality from April 2008. [246224]

Mr. Bradshaw: Regardless of their age, national health service patients with a medical need for transport (as determined by a healthcare professional) are entitled to free transport to and from their treatment as part of non-emergency Patient Transport Services (PTS). Primary care trusts are responsible for securing the provision of PTS for the population it covers to such an extent, as they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements. This includes paying for transport to or from out of area healthcare providers, and transport between healthcare providers.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local authorities are required to set a financial limit on the amount awarded to an individual for social care under an Individual Budget. [246001]

Phil Hope: Local authorities are not required to place a financial limit on an individual budget when undertaking personal assessment of a person's social care needs.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing his better-targeted approach to payment for specialised services; and if he will make a statement. [246057]

Mr. Bradshaw: Health Resource Group version 4 (HRG4) has been designed over a number of years specifically for Payment by Results (PbR), with substantial clinical involvement. The Department is planning for HRG4 to be introduced for payment of tariff from April 2009. The changes underpinning the new tariff have already been extensively discussed and tested with a wide range of stakeholder groups.

The new tariff is currently being 'road tested' by the NHS, the purpose of which is to support early service and financial planning and invite comments on the clarity and comprehensiveness of guidance. The Department is also using the exercise to identify whether the new tariff has any unintended consequences. Following the road testing exercise, the final tariff is expected to be confirmed in January.

The Department has already determined though, that in order to help trusts adjust to the new tariff, the full range of potential changes will not be introduced in 2009-10. Tariffs for accident and emergency services will remain based on the current tariff structure, and although HRG4 has the capability to generate HRGs for procedures in outpatients clinics, there will not be a mandatory tariff for these procedures next year. The full benefits of the new design will be realised gradually, as the quality of underlying activity and cost data improves.

The Department has undertaken an analysis which shows that because funds are directed more accurately to specialised services under HRG4, the number of services requiring specialised service 'top-ups' is reduced from nine to two. The only two services requiring top-ups in 2009-10 are orthopaedics and specialised services for children, and in both cases the level of top-ups is lower than in 2008-09.

Health Services: Foreigners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals with an NHS number were foreign nationals in each year since 1997. [246871]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Health Services: Greater London

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest assessment is of the financial position of *(a)* Havering Primary Care Trust and *(b)* Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [246821]

Mr. Bradshaw: At quarter 2 of 2008-09 Havering Primary Care Trust is forecasting a year end outturn surplus of £695,000. Barking Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust is forecasting a year end outturn deficit of £23.3 million.

Barking Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust continues to be designated as a Financially Challenged Trust and as such continues to work with the Department through its Strategic Health Authority (NHS London) to develop sustainable operating and financial solutions going forward.

Health Services: Recruitment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the results of the national social care recruitment campaign; and if he will make a statement. [245762]

Phil Hope: The latest social care recruitment campaign took place during March 2008. The campaign generated more than twice the level of contacts to the call centre than the previous campaign and increased the number of unique web visitors by a factor of three. In total during the campaign period there were just under 180,000 contacts and unique web visitors. The campaign research also indicated a significant increase in awareness of the advertising among the general adult population compared to the previous campaign.

Health Services: Research

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the result of the independent research programme commissioned by his Department to evaluate the impact of health sector reform is; and if he will make a statement. [246056]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent Health Reform Evaluation Programme consists of interconnected research projects looking at the impact of key health reforms. The projects were commissioned during 2007 and 2008 and have three years to run. They are expected to report during 2010 and early 2011.

Health Services: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the support and development framework for commissioners developed by strategic health authorities. [245 42]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are leading on the support and development of World Class Commissioning locally. Programmes and frameworks will be determined locally by an assessment of needs in their primary care trusts. The Department does not hold the details of SHA frameworks.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on modernising the regulation of healthcare workers; and if he will make a statement. [245764]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Extending Professional Regulation Working Group is developing criteria to assess whether new groups of health care professionals should be brought into a system of regulation. Following a successful event in November 2008 with a wide variety of stakeholders, a report on next steps is currently being drafted for consideration by Ministers. This report is due for completion shortly.

Health Services: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a National Skills Academy for Social Care; and if he will make a statement. [245763]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills announced in October that the expression of interest in developing a national skills academy for social care had been approved by the Learning and Skills Council to go into business planning. Work is proceeding to develop a business plan that meets the requirements of the Learning and Skills Council to be submitted in spring 2009 together with some programmes.

Health: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage a healthy lifestyle amongst teenagers in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [245019]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is working closely with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills across England to address healthy lifestyles for children and young people on a variety of key health issues, including sexual health, tobacco and alcohol.

Holistic health initiatives include the Healthy Schools Programme, the developing Healthy Further Education Programme and the development of a new Child Health Promotion Programme for five to 19-year-olds, as well as the availability of the NHS Teen LifeCheck (a quick quiz-style online questionnaire for 12 to 15-year-olds).

There is also specific action on alcohol as set out in "The Youth Alcohol Action Plan" (CM7387) (DCSF) published in June 2008 and media campaigns such as the RU Thinking campaign and the Want Respect: Use a Condom campaign which address sexual health. A copy of "The Youth Alcohol Action Plan" is available in the Library.

All these activities are aimed at supporting young people throughout England. Each Government office, primary care trust and local authority receives support and guidance from the Department to ensure optimum implementation across their local area. In addition, the Department funded the two-year Teenage Health Demonstration Sites pilot to examine ways of delivering better health information, advice and guidance to young people. Northumberland was one of the four demonstration sites. The evaluation report will be available in the new year, and early results look promising.

Hearing Aids

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulations govern private companies selling hearing aids to people with hearing impairments; and if he will make a statement. [240806]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

Private companies selling hearing aids to people with hearing impediments are regulated by the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968, as modified in 1989. The Act makes it a statutory requirement that hearing aids may only be sold by a dispenser who is suitably qualified and who is registered with the Hearing Aid Council (HAC)—which was established by the Act to set standards of professional training, performance and conduct for individuals and companies involved in the assessment of hearing loss and subsequent sale of hearing aids in the private sector.

Following the Hampton Review of Regulators, the Hearing Aid Council is due to be abolished and its regulatory functions transferred to the Health Professions Council (HPC). This is currently due to occur by March 2010.

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for action on the regulation of hearing aid dispensers; and if he will make a statement. [246216]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are working towards the required legislation to enable the transfer of the Hearing Aid Council's register of dispensers to the Health Professions Council by March 2010.

Hepatitis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 424-25W, on hepatitis, how many drugs were dispensed

for the treatment of hepatitis B in each year since 1997 *(a)* for England in total, *(b)* in each strategic health authority area and *(c)* broken down by type of drug. [245646]

Dawn Primarolo: The following three tables show the number of prescription items dispensed in the community for the treatment of hepatitis B. The information is provided according to the individual British National Formulary (BNF) categories hepatitis B drugs fall within. Figures are split by strategic health authority (SHA) and presented in thousands. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

Due to the disclosive nature of the data, it was not possible to present the data by type of drug. As such, data were aggregated to BNF category to maintain some measure of difference between drug type. The SHA totals may not match the England total due to rounding.

BNF paragraph 8.2.4—Other immunomodulating drugs

Thousand

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 8.2.4, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

SHA[2,3]	*2003 Jul-Dec*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 Jan-Sep*
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	[4]—
East of England	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
London	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
North East	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
North West	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
South Central	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
South East Coast	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
South West	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
West Midlands	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
England	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	0.9

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHAs reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
[4] Indicates 50 or fewer items were dispensed during the period.
Source:
The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

BNF paragraph 5.3.3—Viral hepatitis

Thousand

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 5.3.3, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

SHA[2,3]	*2003 Jul-Dec*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 Jan-Sep*
East Midlands	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
East of England	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	[4]—	0.1	0.2
London	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.5
North East	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
North West	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
South Central	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
South East Coast	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
South West	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1
West Midlands	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.2
England	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.5	1.4

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHAs reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
[4] Indicates 50 or fewer items were dispensed during the period.
Source
The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

BNF paragraph 5.3.1—HIV infection

Thousand

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 5.3.1, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

SHA[2,3]	*2003 Jul-Dec*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 Jan-Sep*
East Midlands	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3
East of England	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
London	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.4	3	2.3
North East	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
North West	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
South Central	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3

BNF paragraph 5.3.1—HIV infection

Thousand

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 5.3.1, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

SHA[2,3]	*2003 Jul-Dec*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 Jan-Sep*
South East Coast	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4
South West	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3
West Midlands	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4
England	2.0	4.5	5.1	6.4	7.4	6.0

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHAs reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
Source:
The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Eddisbury of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 422W, on hepatitis, how many notifications of hepatitis B have been made to the Health Protection Agency and its predecessor bodies in each year since 1997 *(a)* for England in total and *(b)* in each strategic health authority area; and what estimate he has made of the overall prevalence of hepatitis B in each strategic health authority area. [245647]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for notifications of hepatitis B by current and previous strategic health authorities (SHAs) are shown in the following table.

The Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections is not able to produce estimates of the prevalence of hepatitis B at SHA level.

Statutory notifications of hepatitis B in England by strategic health authority: 1997 to 2007

Strategic health authority		*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Current	*Previous*											
East Midlands	Leicestershire, Northants., Rutland	21	22	33	33	17	28	24	28	36	77	65
	Trent	8	25	20	35	26	35	28	16	32	26	28
East of England	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	15	13	24	38	48	66	51	59	59	14	8
	Essex	6	4	3	7	8	6	3	—	—	3	3
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	4	8	19	17	3	5	9	12	17	8	7
London	North Central London	30	55	37	39	30	27	44	27	16	24	28
	North East London	30	30	57	50	43	36	18	23	10	20	11
	North West London	10	13	14	27	19	13	21	11	8	11	8
	South East London	87	87	101	92	149	162	157	174	209	171	111
	South West London	12	16	13	11	9	14	5	8	6	7	8
North East	County Durham and Tees Valley	7	6	11	30	55	37	23	13	23	53	13
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	24	20	14	16	15	31	80	70	91	30	20
North West	Cheshire and Merseyside	70	45	23	50	29	32	46	22	24	36	33
	Cumbria and Lancashire	26	31	33	55	46	45	48	43	27	30	31
	Greater Manchester	72	85	60	76	75	52	74	56	52	32	30

Statutory notifications of hepatitis B in England by strategic health authority: 1997 to 2007

Strategic health authority		*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Current	*Previous*											
South Central	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	5	14	6	2	6	14	32	52	58	64	78
	Thames Valley	18	21	30	32	28	34	17	13	35	30	138
South East Coast	Kent and Medway	6	23	16	27	37	20	25	23	28	10	18
	Surrey and Sussex	48	37	34	51	40	27	14	24	34	26	39
South West	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	4	2	12	10	20	80	60	50	55	69	86
	Dorset and Somerset	20	45	22	51	57	42	43	72	71	45	52
	South West Peninsula	2	14	17	16	14	5	5	7	10	8	3
West Midlands	Birmingham and the Black Country	18	21	25	21	14	35	33	100	109	56	45
	Coventry, Warwicks., Herefords., Worcs.	9	8	5	7	5	14	22	12	10	10	32
	Shropshire and Staffordshire	1	8	14	10	19	21	25	25	39	46	32
Yorkshire and Humberside	North and East Yorkshire , N Lincolnshire	53	100	116	77	68	55	85	64	63	58	81
	South Yorkshire	15	5	13	16	28	29	38	60	36	26	47
	West Yorkshire	49	54	45	89	62	48	67	70	81	71	68
Port Health Authority		—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total		670	813	817	985	970	1,014	1,097	1,134	1,239	1,061	1,123

Notes:
1. Hepatitis B is notifiable under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988.
2. Strategic health authorities have been merged, and the number reduced from 28 to 10.
3. Cells are left empty if no cases have been reported.
4. These data have already been published.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

HIV Infection

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of those diagnosed with HIV and AIDS have received treatment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [244896]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables contain data for diagnosed HIV-infected individuals who attend for HIV-related care at national health service sites. Not all HIV-infected individuals are recommended to start antiretroviral therapy (ART) immediately; British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidelines for this period recommended that individuals with CD4 cell counts of 200 cells per mm^3 or less should be on therapy—this threshold has been used in the following tables to calculate the number of individuals who were recommended to be on ART.

Number of HIV infected individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and as a proportion of all HIV-infected individuals or as a proportion of those recommended therapy by region of residence and year, 2003 to 2007.

	2003				
Region	*(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals*	*(b) Number recommended ART[1]*	*(c) Number receiving ART*	*(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed*	*(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART*
England	33,724	22,931	21,948	65	96
North East	534	307	304	57	99

Number of HIV infected individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and as a proportion of all HIV-infected individuals or as a proportion of those recommended therapy by region of residence and year, 2003 to 2007.

2003

Region	(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals	(b) Number recommended ART[1]	(c) Number receiving ART	(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed	(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART
Tees Valley[2]	127	71	69	54	97
Middlesbrough PCT[3]	48	26	24	50	92
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	14	7	7	50	100

2004

Region	(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals	(b) Number recommended ART[1]	(c) Number receiving ART	(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed	(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART
England	38,277	26,115	25,093	66	96
North East	641	391	359	56	92
Tees Valley[2]	150	94	83	55	88
Middlesbrough PCT[3]	54	33	30	56	91
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	16	11	11	69	100

2005

Region	(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals	(b) Number recommended ART[1]	(c) Number receiving ART	(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed	(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART
England	43,353	29,747	28,670	66	96
North East	754	441	410	54	93
Tees Valley[2]	187	107	98	52	92
Middlesbrough PCT[3]	69	43	43	62	96
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	19	6	6	32	100

2006

Region	(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals	(b) Number recommended ART[1]	(c) Number receiving ART	(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed	(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART
England	48,062	32,375	31,407	65	97
North East	868	564	551	63	98
Tees Valley[2]	218	136	135	62	99
Middlesbrough PCT[3]	86	55	54	63	98
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	22	15	15	68	100

2007

Region	(a) Total number of HIV diagnosed individuals	(b) Number recommended ART[1]	(c) Number receiving ART	(c)/(a) Percentage on ART of total HIV diagnosed	(c)/(b) Percentage on ART of those recommended ART
England	52,137	37,375	36,527	70	98
North East	1,012	669	643	64	96
Tees Valley[2]	276	173	170	62	98
Middlesbrough PCT[3]	107	69	69	64	100
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	28	16	16	57	100

[1] Includes all individuals currently on antiretroviral therapy (ART) plus individuals with a CD4 count of 200 cells per mm[3] or less. Almost all individuals have CD4 cell count reported.
[2] Tees Valley data are produced by combining data for Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees local authorities.
[3] HPA does not have data by constituency. Middlesbrough PCT covers the same geographical area as Middlesbrough local authority and Redcar and Cleveland PCT covers the same geographical area as Redcar & Cleveland local authority.

Source:
Health Protection Agency's Annual Survey of Prevalent HIV Infections Diagnosed (SOPHID), Institute of Child Health National Study of HIV in Pregnancy and Childhood.

HIV Infection: Grants

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the Government is providing to each local authority in AIDS support grant in 2008-09. [246308]

Dawn Primarolo: The 2008-09 AIDS support grant allocations to each local authority in England have been placed in the Library.

Hospices

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support his Department plans to give to hospices in the next two years. [245853]

Phil Hope: For children's services, the Department in May 2006 committed central grant funding of £27 million over three years for children's hospice services. In 2008, this was increased by a further £20 million to continue

the support for children's hospices over the comprehensive spending review period—amounting to a funding package of £47 million over the five years 2006-07 to 2010-11.

For adult services, we are making £286 million of revenue and capital funding available in the two years to 2011 to support the implementation of the End of Life Care Strategy. Most of this will be allocated to primary care trusts. The funding includes a £40 million capital grant for adult hospices in 2010-11.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* children's hospices and *(b)* all hospices have received from the Government in each of the last five years. [245854]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. It is for individual primary care trusts (PCTs) to decide the level of funding they allocate to end of life care services, including hospices, based on assessments of local needs and priorities. The level of funding a hospice receives is a matter for negotiation between the local PCT and the hospice.

However, the Department has made available an additional £27 million over three years to be given to hospices as grants. 36 grants were awarded in 2006, 40 more in 2007 and a further 40 in 2008.

In September 2006, the Government established a £40 million capital fund, which adult hospices were able to bid for to improve their physical environments. 146 hospices, with 191 projects, were allocated funding from the fund.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 203-4W, on influenza, (1) whether the antiviral stockpile referred to in the answer has now been procured; over what period he intends the antiviral stockpile to be built; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the tender for the procurement; [245505]

(2) what further consideration his Department has given to a policy of using antivirals for *(a)* household and *(b)* other prophylaxis; [245506]

(3) which antibiotics will be needed to treat the bacterial complications of pandemic influenza; when he intends to begin to stockpile those antibiotics; and if he will make a statement. [245812]

Dawn Primarolo: Suppliers have responded to the Invitation To Tender for antiviral medicines to increase the stockpile which was published in the *Official Journal* in August 2008, and these have now been evaluated. Orders have not yet been placed. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, it is not yet possible to make any announcements on the speed of the stockpile build. I will arrange for a copy of the tender documents to be placed in the Library when public procurement procedures allow.

There is ongoing discussion at scientific and policy level of antiviral household prophylaxis. For example, the Department has completed modelling which indicates that this is an effective strategy. We have also sought scientific advice on the issue from the Scientific Advisory Group on Pandemic Influenza (SPI), our external scientific advisory committee. This has concentrated on issues such as the size of the stockpile needed and the strategic approach to prophylaxis when the stockpile contains more than one type of antiviral. We are currently considering the delivery implications of a policy based on household prophylaxis, and the procurement approach to be followed. We are not currently considering other forms of prophylaxis.

Experts from the British Thoracic Society, British Infection Society and Health Protection Agency developed Clinical Management Guidelines for patients with pandemic influenza. These include proposals for antibiotics to be used for the treatment of bacterial complications. The guideline suggests antibiotics active against *Heamophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Staphylococcus aureus* the bacteria, which most commonly cause respiratory infections. These include penicillin based products such as co-amoxiclav or a tetracycline such as doxycycline. For those allergic to penicillin, a macrolide such as erythromycin or clarithromycin is recommended. Complications requiring antibiotic therapy would be treated with a cephalosporin such as cefuroxime, which are administered with IV fluids.

Suppliers of antibiotics have responded to the Invitation To Tender published in the *Official Journal* in August 2008. These bids are currently being evaluated.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many courses of zanamivir have been stockpiled to protect pregnant women in the event of an influenza pandemic; [245620]

(2) what proportion of the antiviral stockpile for use in the event of an influenza pandemic is for use by *(a)* adults and *(b)* children; [245643]

(3) what the mass in milligrammes of oseltamivir stockpiled for use in the event of an influenza pandemic is; what the assumed dose in milligrammes of an individual course of treatment for *(a)* an adult and *(b)* children is; and if he will make a statement; [245644]

(4) how many doses of A/H5N1 vaccine are held by his Department; what proportion of the stockpile is reserved for the *(a)* armed forces, *(b)* healthcare workers and *(c)* other groups; and if he will make a statement; [245645]

(5) with reference to the answer of 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 873-4W, on influenza disease control, when his Department's stockpile of Tamiflu will pass its shelf-life. [245811]

Dawn Primarolo: At the time of purchasing the current stockpile of antivirals, adult dosages were applied from age seven upwards. The relative proportions are 7.6 per cent., and 92.4 per cent., for children under seven and adults respectively.

The total mass of the current stockpile of Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) for the UK is 11 billion mg. The dosages per treatment course are 750 mg and 200-600 mg for adults and children respectively.

The bulk of the current stockpile of Tamiflu is due to reach the end of its shelf life in financial year 2010-11, the remainder is due to expire in financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13.

Approximately 275,000 courses of zanamivir have been stockpiled to protect pregnant women in the UK.

The UK holds 3.3 million doses of H5N1. The relative proportions are 2.9 per cent., 86.2 per cent., and 10.9 per cent., for the armed forces, health care workers and other groups respectively.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what modelling work on the effects of an influenza pandemic has been undertaken by his Department in the last 12 months. [245631]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department continues to work in collaboration with a number of modelling and analytical groups both nationally and internationally to take forward both operational and epidemiological modelling work to assist preparedness for a possible pandemic. The main topics considered over the past 12 months have been the appropriate use of clinical countermeasures, the potential effectiveness of social distancing measures and the arrangements for real time modelling during the pandemic.

Where the consideration of these issues has led to a modification of the advice to policy makers the new advice has been recorded in the SPI-M modelling summary at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/spi/modelling.htm

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members of the independent committee which developed an ethical framework to inform the response to an influenza pandemic are, as referred to on page 14 of his Department's National Framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [245632]

Dawn Primarolo: The membership of the Committee on Ethical Aspects of Pandemic Influenza (CEAPI) is as follows:

Chair: Very Reverend Graham Forbes, Provost of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Mrs. Julie Acred, Chief Executive, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Chris Chaloner, Ethics Adviser, Royal College of Nursing

Mr. John Colvin, Consultant and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee

Mr. Jane Cowan, Medicolegal Adviser, MPS Risk Consulting

Mr. Jean Jacques de Gorter, Director of Clinical Services, BUPA Hospitals Ltd.

Professor Robert Dingwall, Director of the Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biotniks and Society, University of Nottingham

Mr. Eugene Gallagher, Head of Primary Care and Family Practitioner Services in the Western Health and Social Services Board, Belfast

Professor Trisha Greenhalgh, Professor of Primary Health Care at University College London

Professor John Harris, Professor of Bioethics, School of Law, University of Manchester

Dr. Victor Larcher, Consultant in General Paediatrics and Clinical Ethics, Great Ormond Street Hospital, London

Professor Jonathan Montgomery, Professor of Health Care Law, University of Southampton; Chair, Hampshire Primary Care Trust

Professor Vivienne Nathanson, Director of Professional Activities, British Medical Association

Ms Jane O'Brien, Head of Standards and Ethics, General Medical Council

Professor Michael Parker, Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Ethox Centre at the University of Oxford

Dr. Clive Richards, Consultant in public health medicine, Nottinghamshire

Mr. Hugh Robertson, Senior Policy Officer with responsibility for Prevention, Rehabilitation and Compensation, Trades Union Congress

Mrs. Shahwar Sadeque, Educational and ICT Consultant and Chief Executive of TriEs Ltd.

Professor John Saunders, Consultant Physician, Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny; Chairman of the Committee for ethical issues in medicine, Royal College of Physicians

Mr. Roy Taylor, Director of Community Services, Kingston upon Thames

Mr. Geoff Watts, freelance journalist

Professor Richard Williams, Professor of Mental Health Strategy, University of Glamorgan; Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust

Dr. Patricia Wilkie, Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges patient/lay committee.

Representatives of the devolved Administrations attend as observers.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next intends to issue an updated national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic. [245633]

Dawn Primarolo: The national framework is due to be updated during 2009-10.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria will be used to assess whether an individual should be admitted to *(a)* secondary and *(b)* critical care in the event of an influenza pandemic. [245641]

Dawn Primarolo: Our guidance document entitled "Pandemic influenza: surge capacity and prioritisation in health services - provisional guidance", which has been issued to primary care trusts and other stakeholders for consultation and is due to be published in the new year, included an assessment tool for admitting individuals to secondary or critical care. We also plan to further refine assessment criteria, in consultation with key stakeholders, over the course of the year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work has been undertaken by the Scientific Pandemic Influenza Behaviour and Communication sub-group since it was established; on what dates it has met since it was established; and if he will place in the Library copies of *(a)* papers considered by the sub-group and *(b)* minutes of all its meetings. [245642]

Dawn Primarolo: The Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee's Behaviour and Communication sub-group has met twice since its establishment in June 2008. These meetings were held on 19 August 2008 and 1 October 2008.

At these meetings, the group identified behavioural science-related research gaps relevant to pandemic influenza preparedness. The group has also assessed the feasibility of undertaking research to address any gaps.

The documents the sub-group considered were excerpts relevant to behavioural science from documents SPI/01/09a and SPI/01/09b, which were presented at the main SPI meeting in April 2008 and available on the SPI website. A copy of these papers has been placed in the Library.

The conclusions of the Behaviour and Communication sub-group meetings were recorded in the submission to the main SPI on the pandemic influenza research gap analysis discussed on 11 November 2008. A copy of this paper has been placed in the Library. It is also available to download on the Department's Scientific Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee (SPI) website at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/spi/index.htm

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 597W, on influenza, what consideration has been given to the merits of stockpiling *(a)* aprons and *(b)* gloves in case of an influenza pandemic. [245698]

Dawn Primarolo: My previous answer highlighted the importance of gloves and aprons in supporting good hygiene practices in an influenza pandemic. The quantities and type of gloves and aprons, based on the number and type of patient interactions, are currently being investigated. The large numbers required and the need to ensure availability at point of use strongly favours the creation of a pandemic stockpile (without impacting on the Business As Usual requirement for these products). We are currently considering the most appropriate commercial options for building this stockpile.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* health care professionals on the supply of seasonal influenza vaccines for the 2008-09 winter. [245634]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received several inquiries from members of the public mainly relating to specific general practitioner (GP) surgeries and their influenza vaccine supplies.

GP surgeries order influenza vaccines directly from the suppliers. As such, GP surgeries contact individual manufacturers if they experience supply problems.

The Department holds regular discussions with the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) to ensure adequate vaccine supply for the influenza programme. The UVIG has confirmed that there is sufficient vaccine to meet all orders placed with the suppliers.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure an adequate supply of seasonal influenza vaccines for the winter 2008-09 seasonal influenza immunisation programme; what discussions he has had with vaccine manufacturers on their capacity to supply adequate stocks of vaccine; which manufacturers are supplying vaccine to the UK; what information he has received about vaccine manufacturers encountering difficulties in *(a)* manufacturing and *(b)* delivering vaccines; and if he will make a statement. [245635]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department holds regular discussions with the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) to ensure adequate vaccine supply for the influenza programme. The UVIG has confirmed that there is sufficient vaccine to meet all orders placed with the suppliers.

UVIG have also confirmed that there have been no difficulties in manufacturing and delivering vaccines.

The manufacturers which have supplied vaccine during this season are GSK, MASTA, Novartis Vaccines, Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Solvay Healthcare and Wyeth Vaccines.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways his Department is communicating to health care workers the importance of seasonal influenza immunisation, as stated in the minutes of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's meeting of 13 February 2008. [245638]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated in the chief medical officer letter of 31 March 2008, responsibility for immunisation for occupational staff rests with employers and should be provided by occupational health services. A copy of this letter has been placed in the Library.

The Department has recently published a new leaflet, fact sheet and poster encouraging health care professionals to get vaccinated against the flu.

Also in June 2008, the Department held a national flu immunisation conference for primary care trust flu leads. This conference focused on flu vaccinations for health care workers and the issues around improving uptake.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he was informed by the NHS information centre that data relating to patients attending hospital with knife wounds, provided to 10 Downing street, had been or was due to have been published. [246696]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State was aware on the day of publication, 11 December.

Lyme Disease

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to make Lyme disease a notifiable disease. [245187]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 234W.

Medical Records

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each health care trust spent on sending patient medical records by taxi in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [245681]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mental Health Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed NHS Constitution will guarantee mental health service users a choice of hospital. [245014]

Ann Keen: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 234W.

Mental Health Services: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the NHS-led community mental health pilots for ex-servicemen are located; and when he expects each pilot to report. [246002]

Phil Hope: The community mental health pilot schemes for ex-service personnel are located in Stafford, Camden, Cardiff, Bishop Auckland, Lothian and St Austell. The pilots, which began in November 2007, will be independently evaluated over a period of two years.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available to primary care trusts to assist them in fulfilling their statutory obligation to commission independent mental health advocates for people who have been detained under the Mental Health Act; and how that funding has been calculated. [245945]

Phil Hope: Primary care trusts' (PCTs) new statutory duty to commission independent mental health advocate services has been reflected in PCT baseline allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. PCT allocations reflect the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, which takes account of a range of baseline and policy pressures, including the Mental Health Act. It will be a matter for local determination how PCTs meet their statutory duty, using their available resources.

Mitochondrial Damage

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has conducted or evaluated on the relationship between mitochondrial damage and *(a)* the use of certain medications such as anti-inflammatories, anaesthetics, angina medications, antibiotics, anti-depressants, statins, mood-stabiliser lithium and *(b)* chemotherapy. [244738]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is not currently funding research directly relating to the relationship between mitochondrial damage and the use of these medications or chemotherapy. However, the MRC does support a portfolio of more basic research on the effects of mitochondrial damage including support for the MRC Mitochondrial Dysfunction Group at the MRC Dunn Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge. Information about the group's research can be found at:

www.mrc-dunn.cam.ac.uk/research/mitochondrial_dysfunction/

In addition, the Department's National Institute for Health Research and the MRC have recently agreed funding for the MRC Centre for Translational Research in Neuromuscular Disease Mitochondrial Disease Patient Cohort (UK) led by Professor Douglass Turnbull at Newcastle university. The development of this cohort will facilitate large-scale interventional trials of drugs and novel treatments such as sequential resistance-endurance exercise. The cohort will also provide the opportunity to assess various prevention strategies including those for cardiomyopathy, stroke-like episodes, migraine and epilepsy.

National Capabilities Survey

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 9 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 596W, on influenza, to which private sector organisations the National Capabilities Survey is sent. [245503]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Capabilities Survey is sent to Category 1 and 2 organisations (as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act), Government Departments and several independent health care providers in England and Wales. From the Independent Healthcare Sector, 35 organisations were asked to respond to the survey.

National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigators

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the first cohort of National Institute for Health Research Senior Investigators has been appointed. [245768]

Dawn Primarolo: National Institute for Health Research senior investigators are selected in open competition by an international panel of judges. The first cohort of 100 investigators took up post in April this year. A directory is available at:

www.nihr.ac.uk/faculty_senior_investigators_directory.aspx.

Their appointments are for three to five years.

National Strategy for Dementia Care

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department plans to publish the National Strategy for Dementia Care. [245696]

Phil Hope: We will publish the National Dementia Strategy early in 2009, which will be a major landmark in improving services for people with dementia and their carers.

NHS Direct: Contracts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the names are of all suppliers with which the NHS Direct NHS Trust holds contracts. [245626]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is contained in the list of NHS Direct suppliers which has been placed in the Library.

NHS Direct has contracts with those suppliers listed providing various goods and services and these include the following:

contracts under Framework Agreements set up by:

1. the Purchasing and Supplies Agency (PASA);

2. the Office of Government Commerce (OGC);

3. the Central Office of Information (COI);

contracts awarded following OJEU notices advertised where over the EU thresholds;

contracts awarded following competitive tender where under EU thresholds; and

ad-hoc orders placed in line with the Trusts Standing Orders Reservation and Delegation.

NHS Foundation Trusts

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS *(a)* acute and *(b)* mental health trusts have become NHS foundation trusts. [245743]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 225 acute and mental health trusts that are eligible to become NHS foundation trusts. The following table gives the information requested.

	NHS foundation trusts	*NHS trusts*	*Total*	*Percentage of NHS foundation trusts*
Acute	82	87	169	48.5
Mental health	31	25	56	55.4
Total	113	112	225	50.2

NHS Foundation Trusts: Governing Bodies

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to extend membership of NHS foundation hospital trusts' boards to members of the public; and whether a timescale has been produced for this policy. [244177]

Mr. Bradshaw: The constitution of both the board of governors and board of directors of a NHS Foundation Trust is set out in National Health Service Act 2006 schedule 7 sub 7, and sub 15 respectively.

Requirements for the board of governors include that more than half must be elected by the members, and at least three members must be elected by the staff constituency. One member must be appointed by a primary care trust for which the FT provides services, and at least one member of the board must be appointed by a local authority. If any of the FT's hospitals includes a medical or dental scheme provided by a university, at least one of the board of governors must be appointed by that university. An organisation specified in the constitution as a partnership organisation may appoint a member of the board of governors also.

There are no plans to extend the membership of boards and therefore no timescale.

NHS Trusts: Billing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health trusts have not met the 10 day invoice payment target to small and medium-sized enterprises. [246105]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not currently collect such performance data because no specific requirement has yet been placed on national health service bodies to meet a 10 day target.

However, David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, wrote to all NHS Trust Chief Executives on 21 October 2008 asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. Bill Moyes, Executive Chair, Monitor, has written similarly to all Foundation Trusts.

NHS prompt payment performance against the 30 day payment target is reported in annual accounts. The 2007-08 accounts for NHS Trusts recorded an 83 per cent. achievement against the 30 day payment target for non-NHS payments.

NHS Trusts: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trusts' financial balances are most at risk from being reported under international financial reporting standards; and what the balance in question is in each case. [246841]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations will be required to prepare their statutory accounts in accordance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS) for the first time for the 2009-10 financial year.

The 2009-10 operating framework requires NHS organisations to submit their final IFRS compliant financial plans for 2009-10 in March 2009. As such the detailed financial impact of moving to IFRS is not currently available.

NHS Trusts: Leasehold

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have *(a)* leases and *(b)* private finance initiative undertakings; and what the value of such leases and initiatives are in each case. [246555]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information in respect of the private finance initiative (PFI) schemes has been placed in the Library. This shows the capital value of each PFI scheme which has reached financial close as well as all the annual and total payments from revenue sources to the private sector under the life of the contract.

Information on operating and finance leases for both national health service trusts and primary care trusts has also been placed in the Library with appropriate explanatory notes. These are recorded separately by NHS bodies as they have different accounting effects. Under current standard United Kingdom accounting practice, the entity assessed to enjoy the risks and rewards of ownership, irrespective of legal title, will recognise the leased asset in its balance sheet. Where an

NHS body is the lessee in a finance lease, the asset will appear in that body's balance sheet; as a lessee in an operating lease no asset is recorded (i.e. it is off balance sheet).

NHS: Accountancy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the use of international financial reporting standards on the budgets of *(a)* the NHS and *(b)* foundation trusts. [246556]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations will be required to prepare their statutory accounts in accordance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS) for the first time for the 2009-10 financial year.

The 2009-10 operating framework requires NHS organisations to submit their final IFRS compliant financial plans for 2009-10 in March 2009. As such, the detailed financial impact of moving to IFRS is not currently available.

2008-09 NHS accounts will continue to be prepared and published under current accounting guidance.

Accounting information in respect of NHS foundation trusts is not collected by the Department, but is available from the independent regulator, Monitor.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the projected surplus or deficit for NHS trusts *(a)* against current accounting standards and *(b)* against international financial reporting standards in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [246557]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service organisations will be required to prepare their statutory accounts in accordance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS) for the first time for the 2009-10 financial year.

2008-09 NHS accounts will be prepared under current accounting guidance. At the end of quarter 2 of 2008-09, the NHS (excluding foundation trusts) is forecasting an overall surplus of £1.73 billion.

The 2009-10 operating framework requires NHS organisations to submit their final IFRS compliant financial plans for 2009-10 in March 2009. As such projected outturns are not currently available.

NHS: Data Protection

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken, or intends to take, to ensure that incomplete or invalidated data returns from NHS bodies shared across Government for internal purposes are not used publicly. [246687]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government attach the highest importance to Departments maintaining the integrity of official statistics and to upholding the rules relating to their publication.

The Cabinet Secretary is working with the Permanent Secretaries of the Departments concerned, including my own, to understand what happened in the case of last month's release of statistics on knife crime. It would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

NHS: Finance

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether local NHS trusts will be allowed to retain any surpluses made this financial year to spend on local health services in future years. [245076]

Mr. Bradshaw: Any surplus made by a national health service trust in the 2008-09 financial year is retained within their accounts as part of their cumulative income and expenditure reserve.

The surpluses generated and held locally, are giving NHS organisations much more flexibility to be even more responsive to patient needs, giving clinicians and managers the necessary headroom to better plan for new services and to manage risk.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much local NHS trusts spent on training in each of the last five years for which records are available. [245077]

Ann Keen: Information about local NHS trusts spend on training is not collected centrally.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spending on the NHS in England has been in *(a)* real terms and *(b)* nominal terms in each year since 1990; and what estimate he has made of expenditure on the NHS in (i) real terms and (ii) nominal terms in England in each year until 2010-11. [245625]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information is given in the following table.

Total net NHS expenditure in (a) real and (b) nominal terms 1990-91 to 2010-11

£ billion

		(a) Net NHS expenditure (real in 2007-08 prices)[2]	*(b) Net NHS expenditure (nominal)*[2]
Cash[1]			
1990-91	Outturn	35.382	22.326
1991-92	Outturn	37.933	25.353
1992-93	Outturn	40.593	27.968
1993-94	Outturn	40.888	28.942
1994-95	Outturn	42.550	30.590
1995-96	Outturn	43.239	31.985
1996-97	Outturn	43.016	32.997

Total net NHS expenditure in (a) real and (b) nominal terms 1990-91 to 2010-11

			£ billion
		(a) Net NHS expenditure (real in 2007-08 prices)[1]	*(b) Net NHS expenditure (nominal)*[2]
1997-98	Outturn	44.034	34.664
1998-99	Outturn	45.535	36.608
1999-2000	Outturn	48.649	39.881
Resource budgeting stage[4]			
1999-2000	Outturn	49.039	40.201
2000-01	Outturn	52.897	43.932
2001-02	Outturn	57.737	49.021
2002-03	Outturn	61.663	54.042
Resource budgeting stage 2[5, 6]			
2003-04	Outturn	71.194	64.173
2004-05	Outturn	74.578	69.051
2005-06	Outturn	80.248	75.822
2006-07	Outturn estimated	83.027	80.561
2007-08	Outturn	89.217	89.217
2008-09	Plan	93.185	96.213
2009-10	Plan[7]	98.037	102.742
2010-11	Plan[7]	100.466	108.183

[1] GDP deflator 30 September 2008.
[2] Figures are not consistent over the period (1971-72 to 2010-11), therefore it is difficult to make comparisons across different periods.
[3] Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
[4] Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting basis.
[5] Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2010-11 are on a Stage 2 Resource Budgeting basis.
[6] Figures from 2003-04 include a technical adjustment for trust depreciation.
[7] Capital expenditure has been modified in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to reflect the changes announced in the pre-Budget report.
Notes:
1. Expenditure excludes NHS (AME)
2. Total expenditure is calculated as the sum of revenue and capital expenditure net of non-Trust depreciation and impairments. This is in line with HMT Guidance.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts *(a)* paid and *(b)* did not pay 95 per cent. or more of undisputed invoices within contracts terms or 30 days where no terms had been agreed in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08; and what the monetary value of those invoices was in each case in each year. [245984]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service prompt performance against the 30 day target is reported in annual accounts. Year-on-year performance for NHS organisations (excluding foundation trusts but including the relevant part of the year for part-year foundation trusts) has been placed in the Library.

Overall performance for NHS trusts has improved year-on-year, from 77.5 per cent. in 2005-06, 79.1 per cent. in 2006-07 to 83.3 per cent. in 2007-08.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what fines have been *(a)* levied against and *(b)* paid by CSC for late delivery of the Lorenzo system; whether local service providers will be paid for upgrades from interim solutions to Lorenzo; and whether the local service providers will pay hospitals' costs incurred in upgrading from such interim solutions where they have been installed. [243192]

Mr. Bradshaw: National programme for information technology contracts do not contain provision for "fines", but do provide for delay deductions to be paid by the local service provider (LSP) should the LSP fail to achieve certain key milestones. Under these arrangements some £22.7 million has to date been paid by the Computer Sciences Corporation, some of which has been earned back.

The LSP is paid for all deployments including upgrades from agreed interim solutions to Lorenzo. The deployment of interim solutions allows the trust to gain early benefit from business change that will be required when Lorenzo is implemented.

The local implementation costs of national programme systems and services, including upgrading from agreed interim systems are paid by the NHS bodies that benefit from them and they receive funding out of normal NHS allocations.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, on NHS: information and communications technology, if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the breach of contract notices sent to Fujitsu. [246030]

Mr. Bradshaw: Publication of the breach of contract notices issued to Fujitsu, in the context of ongoing negotiations to reach an agreement with the company, would put that objective at risk and could potentially compromise the Department's position in any possible future litigation. Either outcome would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the Department.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, on NHS: information and communications technology, how many contractor event of default notices have been issued; on what dates and to whom such notices have been issued; what the reasons for issue were in each case; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such notice. [246031]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the normal contractual processes, a number of contractor event of default notices have been issued, reflecting operational matters identified during the normal course of contract delivery that need to be addressed. The majority of the matters identified have been addressed using the existing contractual remedies.

The information requested is in the table.

Contractor/Date of issue	*Reason for Notice*
Atos	
15 December 2006	Failure to meet performance requirement
10 March 2008	Critical service level failure
10 March 2008	Critical service level failure
20 June 2008	Failure to achieve a key milestone
5 November 2008	Critical service level failure
8 December 2008	Critical service level failure
Accenture	
3 March 2008	Critical service level failure
12 March 2008	Critical service level failure
22 April 2008	Critical service level failure
CSC	
3 March 2008	Critical service level failure
22 April 2008	Critical service level failure
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
30 August 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 October 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 October 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 October 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 November 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 November 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
1 November 2007	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
2 June 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter release key milestone
2 June 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter release key milestone
2 June 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter release key milestone
8 July 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter interim milestone
2 September 2008	Failure to achieve a release key milestone
10 June 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter interim milestone
10 June 2008	Failure to achieve early adopter interim milestone
Fujitsu	
20 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment interim milestone
20 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment interim milestone
20 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment interim milestone
20 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment interim milestone
20 February 2008	Failure to achieve key milestone
20 February 2008	Critical service level failure
20 February 2008	Failure to control account data
29 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
29 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
29 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
29 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
29 February 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
29 February 2008	Critical service level failure
29 February 2008	Critical service level failure
17 April 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestone
17 April 2008	Failure to make delay deductions payment for missed milestones
17 April 2008	Failure to meet contracted service levels
17 April 2008	Failure to provide risk assessments
17 April 2008	Failure to provide detailed costs and analysis
17 April 2008	Failure to provide project resource data
17 April 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestones
17 April 2008	Failure to achieve deployment milestones
17 April 2008	Failure to provide contractor event of default information
17 April 2008	Failure to provide documentation on unauthorised access to data
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
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17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to implement data set change notice
17 April 2008	Failure to update exit plan
BT	
24 May 2004	Failure to meet N3 milestone
6 October 2004	Failure to achieve installation target
6 October 2004	Failure to meet N3 milestone
18 July 2005	Critical service level failure
26 September 2005	Critical service level failure
26 September 2005	Critical service level failure
July 2007	6 x Critical service level failures
August 2007	15 x Critical service level failures
September 2007	14 x Critical service level failures
October 2007	18 x Critical service level failures
November 2007	10 x Critical service level failures
December 2007	6 x Critical service level failures
January 2008	5 x Critical service level failures
February 2008	3 x Critical service level failures
March 2008	6 x Critical service level failures
April 2008	3 x Critical service level failures
May 2008	2 x Critical service level failures

Contractor/Date of issue	Reason for Notice
June 2008	9 x Critical service level failures
July 2008	9 x Critical service level failures
September 2008	21 x Critical service level failures

Publication of contractor event of default notices would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the providers concerned. It would also potentially compromise the Department's position in any possible future formal contractual disputes, which in turn would or would be likely to cause prejudice to the commercial interests of the Department.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on NHS: information and communications technology, how many one-off payments have been made. [246033]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total number of payments relating to deployments made to local service providers (LSPs) since the inception of the contracts is 107. This includes a number of forward payments, a proportion of which have subsequently been depleted in recognition of successful deployments.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 930W, on NHS: information and communications technology, (1) what payments have been made to aid with suppliers' capital costs under Connecting for Health and the London Programme for IT; [246034]

(2) what payments have been made in advance to aid with Fujitsu's capital costs; and what mechanism there is for recouping those payments in the case of work not completed. [246035]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table.

Contract	Total forward payments (£ million)
London LSP	333.18
South (Fujitsu)	486.05

Forward payments are repayable on demand in the event of non-delivery.

NHS: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in developing a series of practical human rights tools to improve service planning and delivery in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [245758]

Phil Hope: The Department has a programme of work on human rights that has resulted in the publication of 'Human Rights in Healthcare—A framework for local action', launched on 7 October 2008. The framework, a copy of which has been placed in the Library, contains guidance for national health service organisations on promoting human rights in their work, and includes a CD-Rom containing practical tools developed by five NHS trusts who have been piloting human rights based approaches in health care. These tools are also available on the Department of Health website, together with an independent evaluation of this work by Ipsos MORI. A copy of the evaluation has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Waiting Lists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were on waiting lists for NHS treatment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each year since 1997. [244897]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows information on the total commissioner based inpatient waiting list from 1997 to present.

	Middlesbrough Primary Care Trust (PCT)	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	Stockton PCT	Hartlepool PCT	Tees Health Authority (HA) area	North East Strategic Health Authority area	England
March 1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,299	56,363	1,158,004
March 1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13,180	57,618	1,297,662
March 1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,925	50,900	1,072,860
March 2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,097	48,619	1,037,066
March 2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,459	47,088	1,006,727
March 2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10,243	48,612	1,035,365
March 2003	3,364	1,801	2,788	1,678	9,631	46,214	992,075
March 2004	3,261	1,807	2,894	1,461	9,423	41,617	905,753
March 2005	2,760	1,340	2,568	1,159	7,827	35,175	821,722
March 2006	2,150	1,046	2,189	1,248	6,633	34,696	784,572
March 2007	1,488	1,302	2,118	1,241	6,149	32,599	700,585
March 2008	1,021	869	1,512	799	4,201	25,977	531,506
October 2008	940	884	1,433	796	4,053	27,507	565,706

Notes:
1. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.
2. Figures only available by PCT and HA.
3. Figures for Tees HA from 2003 are the sum of the PCTS in existence at that time.
4. PCT boundary changes in October 2006 affects figures for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland PCTs.

Source:
Department of Health Quarterly Waiting List Collection QF01 and MMRCOM.

Obesity: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of children under the age of 16 who are clinically obese in the East Riding of Yorkshire PCT area; and if he will make a statement. [244781]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. Prevalence data on obesity by primary care trust (PCT) are only available for children in two school years. The number of children who are obese is not available.

Information on the proportion of children that are obese in the East Riding of Yorkshire PCT is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The NCMP report provides high-level analysis of the prevalence of obese children, in reception year (aged four to five years) and year six (aged 10 to 11 years), measured in England in the school year 2007-08.

This information is available in the "National Child Measurement Programme 2007/08 school year headline results", which was published on 11 December 2008. The prevalence of obese children at PCT level can be found in annex 1: Detailed tables, Table A (pages 31-32). A copy of this publication has already been placed in the Library.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246344]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold figures on the number of former prisoners it employs.

It is departmental policy to not automatically exclude an individual from applying for a post if he or she has a previous conviction. In common with other Government Departments the Department applies the Cabinet Office's Baseline Personnel Security Standard. That Standard includes a check on Criminal Record Declaration of 'unspent convictions' by the applicant. The Department's Human Resources division then decide on a case-by-case basis, making a judgment based on that conviction and the post applied for, and considering whether there would be any conflicts of interest in employing that individual.

The Department would usually not know about any 'spent' convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act. When a member of staff needs to be security cleared under National Security Vetting procedures, a part of that procedure is a Criminal Record Declaration of all previous convictions. These declarations are checked by the Department's Security Vetting Team against police records who then make a decision whether to grant security clearance.

Organogram

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's administrative organogram. [243837]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information available has been placed in the Library.

Pacesetters Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many strategic health authorities are taking part in the Pacesetters programme. [245761]

Dawn Primarolo: To date, six strategic health authorities (SHAs), and six trusts in each of their areas, are currently participating in the Pacesetters programme. The SHAs are: East Midlands, London, South East Coast, South West, West Midlands, and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Partnership for Patients Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the Partnership for Patients Programme; and if he will make a statement. [245738]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service primary care trusts are working with local libraries as part of the Partnership for Patients Programme to help support patients in using information to make their choices when they are referred to hospital. Following successful pilots, librarians are now being trained, via e-learning, as information providers who can help patients access choice information from NHS Choices and make their hospital booking through Choose and Book.

The Partnership for Patients Programme is one of the levers the Department recommends primary care trusts use to make their local population aware of the range of choices open to them, currently around 500 of a possible 3,044 public libraries are currently offering this support. The 10 national health service strategic health authorities are now leading the implementation of the library project at a local level.

Patient Choice Schemes

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Choose and Book system is now operational throughout England. [245740]

Mr. Bradshaw: All national health service hospitals are now using Choose and Book, along with 93 per cent. of general practitioner (GP) practices in England. There are now up to 28,000 bookings taking place every day, and 107,000 referrals every week. Over 10 million referrals having been made using the system.

Choose and Book continues to become the everyday method of referral across the national health service. Around half of all GP referrals to first consultant out-patient appointments are going through Choose and Book, and the number of referrals to other services, including community based services and allied health professionals are increasing steadily.

Choose and Book is easy and convenient to use, and over the last 12 months the national system has been available for use over 99 per cent. of the time.

Pharmacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has had on proposals in the Pharmacy White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [245756]

Phil Hope: We are currently analysing responses to the consultation "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future - proposals for legislative reform" which ended on 20 November 2008 and will make further announcements in due course. However, in respect of the consultation proposals to amend the criteria for dispensing by doctors, I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 952.

Power Stations: Health Hazards

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to issue guidance on any known effects on humans of prolonged residence in proximity to power stations to families who live near such installations; and if he will make a statement. [244213]

Dawn Primarolo: The Environment Agency regulates emissions from power stations, which have an important influence on air pollution levels but do not alone lead to local breaches of the air quality objectives in the Air Quality Strategy. There has been no specific study of the health of people living around power stations but the health benefits of reductions in emissions from power stations overall (locally and nationally) have been assessed in reports available on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/publications/stratreview-analysis/index.htm

Guidance on the health effects of air pollution in general is available on the website of the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/healtheffects.htm.

There have been studies of the incidence of childhood cancer undertaken around nuclear power stations in particular and these have been reviewed by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE). In its 10th report, it concluded that there was no evidence of excess numbers of cases in any local 25 km area around any of the nuclear power stations:

http://www.comare.org.uk/press_releases/comare_pr10.htm

Prescription Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* ensure equitable payment to dispensing appliance contractors and pharmacy contractors for equivalent services under Part IX of the Drug Tariff proposals and *(b)* extend the expensive prescription fee to dispensing appliance contractors; [245704]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the competition implications of not extending the same prescription fee structure to dispensing appliance contractors and to pharmacies; and if he will make a statement. [245703]

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the competition implications of not extending the same prescription fee structure to dispensing appliance contractors and to pharmacies; and if he will make a statement. [245798]

Phil Hope: A review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug tariff for the provision of stoma and urology items—and related services—in primary care is currently under way. One of the stated aims of the review is that it seeks to make service provided by and payment provision to dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) and pharmacy contractors more equitable. A number of proposals have been put forward in consultation issued by the Department and extending the expensive prescription fee to DACs has been raised by respondents and will therefore be considered. The consultation closed in September 2008; details of the how this work will progress in light of responses and a final impact assessment will be published in the new year.

Primary Care Trusts

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish his national support programme for primary care trust board development. [245741]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the World Class Commissioning Programme, "PCT Board Development Framework" can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Commissioning/Worldclasscommissioning/Supportanddevelopment/DH_084999

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to what proportion of primary care trust revenue allocations for the 2009-10 financial year the health inequalities formula has been applied, with the meaning described on page 28 of his Department's Report of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation published 8 December 2008. [245627]

Mr. Bradshaw: One Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) objective is to help to reduce avoidable health inequalities through resource allocation. To achieve this objective, a separate health inequalities formula has been developed which targets funds at the places with the worst health outcomes. This is a more transparent way of contributing towards the reduction in health inequalities through resource allocation, and highlights our commitment to tackling the issue of health inequality.

ACRA could not determine the proportion of allocations to apply the health inequalities formula to and left it to ministerial decision. Ministers decided to apply the formula to 15 per cent. of the allocations, excluding the mental health component of the formula (which already includes an adjustment for unmet need) and HIV/AIDS. This keeps the distribution of funding between the most and least deprived areas in line with the previous formula.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what variables are included in the weighted capitation formula used to inform primary care trust revenue allocation for 2009-10; and what the data sources are for each. [245628]

Mr. Bradshaw: The variables included in the weighted capitation formula for 2009-10 primary care trust revenue allocations and their data sources are set out in the

Department's publication Resource Allocation: Weighted Capitation Formula (Sixth Edition), which has been placed in the Library, and which is also available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091849.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the weighted capitation targets per *(a)* unweighted and *(b)* weighted head are for (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10 (A) for England on average and (B) for each primary care trust. [245629]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is provided in the table for 2009-10. Weighted capitation targets were not calculated for 2008-09 because the formula which determines them was frozen while the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation were granted more time to conclude their review.

2009-10 weighted capitation targets per unweighted and weighted person by primary care trust (PCT)

£

PCT	Weighted capitation target per unweighted head	Weighted capitation target per weighted head
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,757	1,462
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,810	1,543
Barnet PCT	1,444	1,692
Barnsley PCT	1,877	1,435
Bassetlaw PCT	1,673	1,402
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,288	1,621
Bedfordshire PCT	1,340	1,481
Berkshire East PCT	1,315	1,595
Berkshire West PCT	1,235	1,619
Bexley Care Trust	1,488	1,554
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,713	1,497
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,719	1,492
Blackpool PCT	1,938	1,476
Bolton PCT	1,714	1,491
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	1,548	1,592
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	1,598	1,516
Brent Teaching PCT	1,629	1,677
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,572	1,654
Bristol PCT	1,485	1,555
Bromley PCT	1,405	1,664
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,260	1,573
Bury PCT	1,578	1,483
Calderdale PCT	1,531	1,522
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,314	1,517
Camden PCT	1,610	1,747
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,419	1,546
Central Lancashire PCT	1,571	1,509
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,009	1,632
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,586	1,444
County Durham PCT	1,826	1,459
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,622	1,532
Croydon PCT	1,494	1,616
Cumbria Teaching PCT	1,572	1,506
Darlington PCT	1,651	1,559
Derby City PCT	1,562	1,450
Derbyshire County PCT	1,589	1,444
Devon PCT	1,454	1,523
Doncaster PCT	1,775	1,461
Dorset PCT	1,497	1,525
Dudley PCT	1,592	1,475
Ealing PCT	1,557	1,657
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,366	1,537
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,672	1,527
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1,464	1,440
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,497	1,576
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,576	1,523
Enfield PCT	1,569	1,565
Gateshead PCT	1,840	1,534
Gloucestershire PCT	1,378	1,560
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,649	1,490
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,727	1,595
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1,837	1,477
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,625	1,782
Hampshire PCT	1,335	1,556
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,706	1,571
Harrow PCT	1,439	1,650
Hartlepool PCT	1,860	1,473
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,720	1,567
Havering PCT	1,572	1,538
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,639	1,700
Herefordshire PCT	1,489	1,500
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,743	1,527
Hillingdon PCT	1,451	1,632
Hounslow PCT	1,539	1,611
Hull Teaching PCT	1,689	1,440
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,651	1,516
Islington PCT	1,913	1,738
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,377	1,869
Kingston PCT	1,242	1,748
Kirklees PCT	1,536	1,504
Knowsley PCT	2,020	1,525
Lambeth PCT	1,731	1,759
Leeds PCT	1,506	1,508
Leicester City PCT	1,649	1,448
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,327	1,457
Lewisham PCT	1,678	1,728

2009-10 weighted capitation targets per unweighted and weighted person by primary care trust (PCT)

£

PCT	Weighted capitation target per unweighted head	Weighted capitation target per weighted head
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	1,553	1,451
Liverpool PCT	2,007	1,562
Luton PCT	1,553	1,513
Manchester PCT	1,889	1,495
Medway PCT	1,456	1,535
Mid Essex PCT	1,316	1,480
Middlesbrough PCT	1,819	1,520
Milton Keynes PCT	1,360	1,496
Newcastle PCT	1,719	1,580
Newham PCT	1,963	1,636
Norfolk PCT	1,505	1,466
North East Essex PCT	1,561	1,460
North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	1,595	1,502
North Lancashire Teaching PCT	1,599	1,477
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,561	1,440
North Somerset PCT	1,464	1,471
North Staffordshire PCT	1,586	1,487
North Tyneside PCT	1,697	1,517
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,380	1,498
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	1,379	1,513
Northumberland Care Trust	1,635	1,489
Nottingham City PCT	1,638	1,446
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	1,538	1,448
Oldham PCT	1,715	1,505
Oxfordshire PCT	1,261	1,595
Peterborough PCT	1,539	1,604
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,602	1,476
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,485	1,541
Redbridge PCT	1,512	1,513
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,777	1,511
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,215	1,896
Rotherham PCT	1,758	1,449
Salford PCT	1,879	1,546
Sandwell PCT	1,821	1,450
Sefton PCT	1,747	1,557
Sheffield PCT	1,619	1,556
Shropshire County PCT	1,469	1,480
Solihull Care Trust	1,404	1,545
Somerset PCT	1,461	1,502
South Birmingham PCT	1,664	1,539
South East Essex PCT	1,534	1,497
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,260	1,594
South Staffordshire PCT	1,480	1,446
South Tyneside PCT	1,849	1,534
South West Essex PCT	1,492	1,535

2009-10 weighted capitation targets per unweighted and weighted person by primary care trust (PCT)

£

PCT	Weighted capitation target per unweighted head	Weighted capitation target per weighted head
Southampton City PCT	1,504	1,510
Southwark PCT	1,755	1,628
Stockport PCT	1,483	1,584
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching PCT	1,585	1,448
Stoke on Trent PCT	1,845	1,440
Suffolk PCT	1,382	1,480
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,873	1,529
Surrey PCT	1,282	1,718
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,384	1,684
Swindon PCT	1,433	1,539
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,709	1,507
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,540	1,457
Torbay Care Trust	1,725	1,496
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,917	1,624
Trafford PCT	1,476	1,660
Wakefield District PCT	1,771	1,445
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,734	1,500
Waltham Forest PCT	1,700	1,560
Wandsworth PCT	1,482	1,757
Warrington PCT	1,509	1,524
Warwickshire PCT	1,427	1,514
West Essex PCT	1,447	1,585
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,348	1,626
West Kent PCT	1,376	1,540
West Sussex PCT	1,438	1,598
Western Cheshire PCT	1,493	1,560
Westminster PCT	1,452	1,878
Wiltshire PCT	1,321	1,552
Wirral PCT	1,787	1,568
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,764	1,492
Worcestershire PCT	1,431	1,499
England	1,540	1,540

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 30-8WS, on primary care trust revenue allocations/NHS operating framework, what assessment he has made of the pace of change policy relating to the new resource allocation formula; and in what year he expects primary care trusts will receive an actual revenue allocation equivalent to the target revenue allocation determined by the weighted capitation formula. [245813]

Mr. Bradshaw: Pace of change policy for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations ensures stability of funding for primary care trusts (PCTs), and allows them to make progress nationally and in local priority areas:

no PCT will receive less than an average of 5.2 per cent. per year over two years;

under target PCTs will receive average growth (5.5 per cent.) per year, or above; and

by the end of 2010-11, no PCT will be more than 6.2 per cent. below its fair share of available resources.

We are committed to bringing PCTs to their target allocations as soon as is practicable. However, this has to be consistent with all PCTs receiving sufficient extra funding to enable them to deliver on national and local priorities. Pace of change policy for the next round of allocations will be considered in the light of the overall resources available for the NHS.

Public Analyst Laboratories

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which public analyst laboratories were open in 1997. [245803]

Dawn Primarolo: In 1997 there were public analyst laboratories in Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Carmarthen, Cardiff (Cardiff City Authority laboratory), Cardiff (Mid-Glamorgan Authority laboratory), Chester, Dundee, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leicester, Liverpool, London (London Bridge), London (New Cross), Manchester, Matlock, Newcastle, Norwich, Preston, Salford, Sheffield, Southsea, Stafford, Wakefield, Worcester, Taunton, West Malling and Wolverhampton.

Race for Health Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts are taking part in the Race for Health Programme. [245760]

Ann Keen: To date, 21 primary care trusts are participating in the Race for Health programme. The PCTs are: Berkshire East, Bradford and Airedale Teaching, Bristol, Ealing, Haringey Teaching, Hastings and Rother, Lambeth, Leeds, Leicester City, Liverpool, Luton Teaching, Manchester, Norfolk, Oldham, Shropshire County, South Birmingham, Suffolk, Trafford, Wandsworth, Westminster, and Wolverhampton City.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust: Billing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will encourage the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust to settle its invoices to small and medium-sized enterprises within the target of 10 days. [246107]

Mr. Bradshaw: We do not currently collect such performance data because no specific requirement has yet been placed on national health service bodies to meet a 10-day target.

However, David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive, wrote to all NHS trust Chief Executives on 21 October 2008 asking them to examine and review existing payment practices and payment performance and to move as closely as possible to the 10-day payment commitment that has been set for Government Departments wherever practical. Bill Moyes, Executive Chair, Monitor, has written similarly to all NHS foundation trusts.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to allow patients with paranoid schizophrenia who have a history of violence to choose their own treatment options. [245730]

Phil Hope: "Our Choices in Mental Health", written in consultation with service users and carers and published in 2006, sets out a framework that will make choice available locally to people who use mental health services in England. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library. When "Our Choices in Mental Health" was published, it was considered that offering a choice of provider or treatment to service users with more severe and enduring conditions would not always be appropriate.

The Care Programme Approach, the process of assessing mental health users' needs, should provide each mental health service user with an opportunity to be actively involved in agreeing their treatment plans with their care coordinator.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the work of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group; and if he will make a statement. [245759]

Phil Hope: In autumn 2007 the Department decided to review the work of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisory Group (SOGIAG) to date with a view to strengthening procedures and giving the group more support from officials. The Office for Public Management (OPM) was commissioned to undertake this independent review. A copy of their report has been placed in the Library.

Following the OPM report the Department has refreshed the group. In summer 2008 the Department went through an open appointments process and now has a new external high-level Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Advisory Group. Work has begun on several projects, including in the areas of suicide prevention for LGBT people, the social care needs of LGBT people, and partnership working with community organisations.

The Department has also begun a process of reviewing how we engage with all equality stakeholders and this review is due to report in spring 2009.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245717]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department follows Royal National Institute of Blind People 'See it Right' guidelines in the production of its publications. This includes guidelines on the use of red and green in printed materials. All departmental publications are published through Central Office for Information, which has a policy of adherence to these guidelines.

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects the Social Enterprise Investment Fund to spend in 2008-09. [245746]

Phil Hope: Applications to the Social Enterprise Investment Fund are currently being assessed. However, £11 million capital and £7 million revenue has been allocated to the Social Enterprise Investment Fund for 2008-09.

Social Enterprise Pathfinder Projects

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on each of the 26 social enterprise pathfinder projects set up by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [245747]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. The Department has commissioned an external evaluation of the Social Enterprise Pathfinders. The evaluation report is expected in early spring 2009.

Social Services

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase public awareness and understanding of national social care needs. [244765]

Phil Hope: Ahead of publishing the Care and Support Green Paper early in 2009, the Department has been raising awareness of existing social care services while seeking views about future care and support services. A six-month public engagement process was established this year in order to gather views and comments from stakeholders, service users and members of the public which will help inform next year's Green Paper. In addition, we achieved media coverage both national and regional, and worked with stakeholders to obtain coverage in their communication channels, including newsletters and websites. Once the process of analysing the responses has been finalised, plans will be made to publish a report of the responses received alongside the Green Paper.

The 'Putting People First' initiative was set-up in 2007 as a concordat with other Government Departments and range of stakeholders from the care sector. This identifies a key role for local government in providing access to information, advice and advocacy (where it is needed) in enabling people to exercise choice and control over their lives.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research to analyse potential financial savings to the Department of Health of providing preventative care services to people with low and moderate needs. [244768]

Phil Hope: We recognise the importance of research to support development in this area, which is why we have invested in the Partnership for Older People Projects and the work of the Care Services Efficiency and Delivery Team on enablement. Both of these provide an evidence base on the most effective forms of early intervention and this work is continuing.

The Government have also published "Improving Health and Work: changing lives" on 25 November 2008, which is our vision to create a society where the links between work and health are recognised by all, where everyone aspires to a healthy and fulfilling working life and where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work. A copy of the publication has been placed in the Library. This includes evidenced based policy work on early intervention, for example 'fit for work' pilots. These aim to help people back to or remain in work when they develop a health condition or impairment. We are testing a range of services to provide support for people who develop health conditions.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that social care needs are met. [245018]

Phil Hope: The responsibility for delivery of social care and ensuring that social care needs are met rests with local authorities. The Department provides the policy framework to support local authorities in meeting their statutory requirements.

Local authorities have reported a continued increase in social care expenditure. Last year (2007-08), provisional data show that local authorities reported gross current spend on adult social care services was £15.6 billion. This has increased by 85 per cent. over the last 10 years.

From 2008-11, the Department has committed to contributing over £3.5 billion into adult social care services specific revenue grants and the area based grant (ABG—this enables flexibility for local authorities to make decisions concerning local priorities, of which social care is one, and delivering public services). This is an average increase of over 10 per cent. per year from the Department.

The Department will continue to work collaboratively with local authorities and their representative bodies, other Government Departments (working across the boundaries of social care, health, housing and employment), service users and other key stakeholders to evaluate the risks and opportunities to support the delivery of social care. The vision for social care is laid down in "Putting People First", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. This document was signed by six Secretaries of State and a range of key stakeholders from local government and partner bodies. The Department is now working with all of these stakeholders to support the delivery of that vision. The Department is investing more than half a billion pounds in developing more personalised care services through the Social Care Reform grant.

Social Services: Fees and Charges

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to meet the Coalition on Charging to discuss its report Charging into Poverty as part of his formulation of policy on charging for social care. [244101]

Phil Hope: Most members of the Coalition on Charging have been meeting with departmental officials as part of the stakeholder engagement, which is helping to inform the development of the Green Paper on the future of

care and support. We will take full account of the Coalition's report in considering the future arrangements for care and support.

Social Services: Public Consultation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the forthcoming Green Paper on social care will include proposals on supporting people. [246834]

Phil Hope: The whole ethos of the Care and Support Green Paper, to be published early in 2009, will be how people can be better supported in the future.

The Government intend to publish its proposals for reform in order to address demographic changes and an estimated widening gap in funding. Ahead of producing the Green Paper, the Department has run a six-month public engagement process in order to gather views and comments from stakeholders, service users and members of the public to help inform the Green Paper to help ensure this will meet the needs of those requiring support.

Social Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of social workers working with local authorities but employed by an agency; and if he will make a statement. [245568]

Phil Hope: The number of agency staff working in social services departments by local authority is not held centrally. The Local Government Association estimated in 2006 that the average percentage of agency staff working in posts for adults within local authority social services departments in England was 5.2 per cent. This was estimated to equate to around 8,800 agency staff covering a range of roles including field social workers but also residential care workers and administrative staff.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by each local authority on employing social workers via agencies in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [245569]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the employment of social workers via agencies; and if he will make a statement. [245570]

Phil Hope: The General Social Care Council has issued statutory codes of practice for social care workers and their employers under section 62 of the Care Standards Act 2000. They provide a clear guide for all those who work in social care, setting out the standards of conduct workers and their employers should meet. They also mean that people who use services, carers and the wider public will know what standard of conduct and practice they can expect.

Third Sector Funding and Investment Review

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the implications for the Section 64 scheme and the Opportunities for Volunteering scheme of his Department's strategic review of funding and investment in the third sector; [245548]

(2) what progress the Third Sector Funding and Investment Review has made on the development of a strategic framework for investment in the third sector by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [245549]

Phil Hope: In July 2008 the Department published a response to the strategic review of Third Sector Funding and Investment consultation, undertaken between December 2007 and March 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The vision for future funding of the third sector included: investment in strategic partners; support for innovation excellence and service development; promote and support volunteering; and contracting for expertise required at national level. There was strong support for this vision and the principles underpinning this approach.

From the feedback on the proposals we have developed a funding framework that underpins a wider third sector investment programme. The programme will be developed over time as more funding schemes in the Department are brought into the framework. For 2009-10 the third sector investment programme will include:

Innovation Excellence and Service Development Fund - this replaces the Section 64 *General Scheme of grants* - project funding; and

Strategic Partner Programme - this replaces the Section 64 *General scheme of grants*-core funding.

We anticipate that from 2010-11 a new volunteer investment fund, building on the existing Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme, will form part of the Third Sector Investment Programme. Moving forward, policy specific funding schemes and initiatives will be drawn under the banner of the wider programme.

This process will result in transformation of previous piecemeal arrangements for funding the third sector into a strategic portfolio of investments that will more explicitly support delivery of the Department's objectives and priorities supporting a fundamental step change in the Department's funding relationships with third sector organisations.

Tobacco

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to publish the responses made to his Department's consultation on the Future of Tobacco Control; and if he will make a statement. [244755]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement made by the Secretary of State for Health on 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS.

The Government have published a report summarising the more than 96,000 responses received during the consultation. There are no plans to publish specific consultation responses.

The report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Responsestoconsultations/DH_091382.

Transsexuality

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time between a patient being accepted for NHS gender reassignment surgery and completion of the operation was in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; [244893]

(2) how many people are waiting for NHS gender reassignment surgery in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; [244894]

(3) how many people have unsuccessfully applied for NHS gender reassignment surgery in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [244895]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. The Department's guidance for general practitioners and other professionals on the care of gender variant people, was published in May 2008.

Tuberculosis

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of tuberculosis cases notified in England were of *(a)* homeless persons, *(b)* problem drug-users and *(c)* prisoners in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such people in each category received directly-observed therapy from the start of their treatment in that period. [245427]

Dawn Primarolo: No data are collected on these risk factors, nor on the proportion of people receiving directly observed therapy. The Health Protection Agency has recently redeveloped its surveillance system to collect this information about risk factors and whether patients started on treatment are under direct observation, and the new system is currently being rolled out nationally.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of tuberculosis have been recorded in *(a)* Gravesham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* England in each quarter of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246003]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table indicates the number of tuberculosis cases in Gravesham, Kent and England for the calendar years 2000 to 2006.

Area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Gravesham	8	<5	<5	8	7	8	11
Kent	60	73	78	90	76	84	105
England	6,091	6,414	6,638	6,741	7,049	7,846	7,862

Notes:
1. Cases in Gravesham and Kent were determined on the basis of local authority (of patient's residence).
2. Data for Gravesham are for Gravesham local authority; data for Kent comprise: Medway, Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Shepway, Swale, Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, and Tunbridge Wells local authorities.
3. We have not provided data by quarter because the case numbers per quarter would be very small and would have to be suppressed due to the risk of deductive disclosure. Local authority information is not yet available for 2007.

Source:
Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance, Health Protection Agency

Vitamin B12

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the guideline thresholds for vitamin B12 levels set by his Department and the World Health Organisation differ; and if he will make a statement. [244917]

Dawn Primarolo: The "guideline thresholds" have been taken to refer to the recommended or reference nutrient intakes for vitamin B12.

In 1991, the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) set the Reference Nutrient Intake (the amount of a nutrient which meets the needs of almost all individuals) for vitamin B12 at 1.5 micrograms vitamin B_{12} per day for UK adult men and women.

In 2004, the World Health Organisation (WHO) revised its recommended nutrient intakes for vitamin B_{12} upwards, from 1.0 microgram per day (set in 1988) to 2.4 micrograms per day for adults. The WHO recommendation appears to be largely based on the USA Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Dietary Reference Intakes for vitamin B_{12} published in 2000. The Institute of Occupational Medicine recommendation was based on a review of evidence some of which was not available to COMA in 1991.

The most recent National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) of adults aged 19-64 years reported mean daily vitamin B_{12} intakes exceed both COMA and WHO recommendations at 6.8 micrograms and 5.1 micrograms for men and women respectively.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 January 2009

WALES

Departmental Assets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [245407]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has no plans to sell assets, our main asset is Gwydyr House, which we occupy.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244719]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence, the Wales Office abides by the guidance set out in 'Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies' which was published by the Cabinet Office in July 2005.

In respect of emails, the information is only available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of contractors and suppliers to his Department has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245306]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not directly use external suppliers or contractors to carry out its responsibilities. The Wales Office is provided with its IT and support services by the Ministry of Justice, who place an obligation on all of their contractors to provide IT and data management systems that meet Government security standards.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many contracts his Department has which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245334]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not store or process personal data overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245372]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The responsibility of Senior Information Risk Owner was transferred to the newly-created post of Head of Corporate Services in November. The postholder is a member of the Department's Management Board.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of the IT systems in his Department is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245377]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office's IT services are provided by the Ministry of Justice. These IT systems are fully accredited to Government standards.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of *(a)* the cost and *(b)* the completion date of each is. [245403]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT services by the Ministry of Justice. Consequently, the Department does not directly undertake IT projects.

Departmental Information Officers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many press and communications officers are employed by his Department. [245402]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has three press and communications officers.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent maintaining its website in each of the last five years. [245397]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has spent the following on maintaining our website.

	£
2003-04	1,600
2004-05	1,600

	£
2005-06	1,600
2006-07	1,600
2007-08	6,936

The 2007-08 figure includes the cost of designing and establishing the new Wales Office website.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on broadband internet in each of the last five years. [245399]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office installed two broadband lines in January 2008, prior to this, we did not have any broadband. The cost of each line is £111 per quarter.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales for which websites his Department provides funding. [245411]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department funds two departmental websites:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

and

www.swyddfa.cymru.gov.uk

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many full-time equivalent staff in his Department work to assist special advisers; and what the cost of employing such staff was in each of the last three years. [245408]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has no full-time support staff for special advisers.

Departmental Pensions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [245409]

Mr. Paul Murphy: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members, whose details are shown in the remuneration report in annual resource accounts for the Ministry of Justice.

A copy of the resource accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library, or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc0708/hc08/0869/0869.asp

Departmental Sick Leave

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many hours of work were lost through sickness absence on the part of staff working in his Department in the last 12 months. [245405]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not record the sickness absence of its staff in terms of hours, but in terms of days and half days.

In the year to March 2008, 505.5 days were lost to sickness absence.

Departmental Written Questions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current Session of Parliament. [245400]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office have not received any named day questions in the current parliamentary Session.

Plain English

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each of the last five years. [245404]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No expenditure was incurred, but through staff development and coaching, my Department encourages all its staff to use Plain English.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241172]

Mr. Woodward: The Adapting to Climate Change programme is responsible for the co-ordination of the Government's work on adaptation in England. In Northern Ireland—as in Scotland and Wales—the devolved Administration is responsible for considering how climate change will affect issues such as health, education and planning. However, it is recognised that there is a need to ensure coherence across the Administrations, and take a UK-wide approach on issues.

Therefore the UK Administrations are committed to working closely together to share best practice and develop initiatives.

My Department is working in conjunction with the NI Departments in responding to the challenges of climate change. In January 2007 the Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research published a report entitled "Preparing for a changing climate in Northern Ireland". The report examined the ways in which Northern Ireland must prepare to meet both the opportunities and threats presented by the impacts of a changing climate. It focuses specifically on the impacts on, and the need for adaptation by, the public sector in Northern Ireland.

Under the Climate Change Act 2008 Northern Ireland will participate in the development of a UK-wide risk assessment which will help inform the development of a Northern Ireland Adaptation Strategy.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244712]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows.

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence the NIO abides by the guidance as set out in "Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies" which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005.

(b) In respect of e-mails, the NIO is unable to provide the information within the disproportionate cost limit as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242917]

Paul Goggins: There have been three such cases in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies and legal offices since 1997. As there are fewer than five cases, details about the cases cannot be released for reasons of confidentiality. The Northern Ireland Office has clear policies and processes in place to ensure that staff understand the importance of data security and data confidentiality and to ensure that any cases of potential data loss can be properly dealt with.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government", and the accompanying document, "Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action", on 25 June 2008. [245328]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office breakdown percentage of contractors and suppliers that have reported compliance to Government requirements is: *(a)* the core Department—80 per cent.; and *(b)* our agencies—60 per cent. My departmental officials are working with our contractors and suppliers to ensure they maintain and improve compliance.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245349]

Mr. Woodward: There are no contracts in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies that allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245391]

Mr. Woodward: The percentage of IT systems holding protectively marked data accredited in my Department is as follows: *(a)* the core Department 100 per cent., and *(b)* the agencies—75 per cent. The remaining systems that hold protectively marked data are in the accreditation process.

Departmental Drinking Water

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many water coolers are used by his Department. [243228]

Mr. Woodward: My Department's general policy is to use tap water where it is available. It currently has 16 coolers in six buildings and further reductions are planned.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246013]

Mr. Woodward: The civil service diversity strategy, 'Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity', published in July, sets civil service wide targets in relation to gender, ethnicity and disability for the next three to five years.

The Department retains Human Resource information on staff including details of *(a)* sex and *(c)* age. Human resource information may also include voluntary monitoring declarations on *(b)* ethnicity and *(d)* disability, and *(d)* disability data are also held following the provision of reasonable adjustments and for emergency evacuation purposes.

In Northern Ireland, (where *(f)* religion and belief legislation does not apply) Northern Ireland legislation requires statutory monitoring of Northern Ireland community background to be undertaken for the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

At present, the Department is examining ways to sensitively monitor *(e)* sexual orientation.

The Department regularly assesses the diversity of its work force against its targets. In addition, Cabinet Office peer assessment of the Department's Diversity delivery plan for 2008-10 will take place in early 2009.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244352]

Mr. Woodward: Information on furniture spend by country of manufacture is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. No goods have been purchased by my Department from Remploy.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1318W, on departmental marketing, what each advertisement referred to was; and how much each cost. [243503]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Type of Advertisement	*Number*	*Advertisement referred to*	*Cost (£)*
Newspaper	2	Understanding corporate manslaughter and Homicide Act 2007	2,447.00
Newspaper	1	Public consultation on a proposed Draft Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2007	2,252.53
Newspaper	1	Public consultation on Sexual Offences Order	2,474.43
Newspaper	1	Public consultation on Fine Default	1,691.70
Newspaper	1	Consultation on Proposals for Reform of the Law on Murder, Manslaughter and Infanticide	1,810.00
Newspaper	2	Implementation of Electronic Monitoring in NI advert for Contracts and Tenders	402.29
Newspaper	1	Competition to recruit a new Prisoner Ombudsman	22,316.00
Newspaper	1	Consultation to the Proposed amendment to the Criminal Damage Order	1,649.46
Newspaper	1	Notice of Closure of Belfast City Mortuary, Forster Green and opening of a new NI Regional Forensic Mortuary in the Royal Hospitals complex	925.90
Newspaper	1	Consultation on the Proposed Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009	2,107.91
Newspaper	4	Invitations for tenders for the NI Appropriate Adult Scheme	788.69
Newspaper	5	Theft from Vehicles campaign	4,563.50
Newspaper	7	Recruitment	6,064.93
Newspaper	5	Recruitment	5,092.59
Newspaper	5	BT Phone Book advertising	8,062.60
Newspaper	1	Yellow Pages advertising	1,463.00
Newspaper	1	'Criminal Justice' advertising	2,295.00
Newspaper	2	Invitations for tenders for provision of a graphic design and print service	548.27
Television	1	Unknown Callers campaign	50,199.50

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243566]

Paul Goggins: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243734]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not allocate official funds for departmental Christmas parties.

Information on departmental expenditure specifically on staff entertainment could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on entertainment is set out in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental hospitality, how much was spent by his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* non-departmental public bodies on hosting events in the last 12 months. [244008]

Mr. Woodward: My Department's agencies spent £24,238 on hosting events in the last 12 months.

Information for the Northern Ireland Office's executive non-departmental bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives. Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 Departmental Report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on departmental hospitality, which suppliers were contracted by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies sponsored by his Department in connection with events hosted in the last 12 months. [244009]

Mr. Woodward: For the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its agencies, it would only be possible to impart a full listing of all suppliers who provided goods and services in connection with hosting events, at disproportionate cost.

Information for the NIO's executive non-departmental bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives.

Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 Departmental Report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/
northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on his transport on official visits in the last 12 months. [243443]

Mr. Woodward: Information on travel by the Secretary of State on official visits is not recorded separately from travel for normal ministerial duties, and to provide this breakdown could only be done so at disproportionate cost.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244387]

Mr. Woodward: All Northern Ireland Office (NIO) employees are paid on NIO pay scales in accordance with NIO terms and conditions, regardless of whether they are temporarily or permanently employed.

Departmental Television

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, from which suppliers his Department has purchased televisions in the last 12 months. [244054]

Mr. Woodward: All television purchases in the last 12 months were made from suppliers on approved contracts for electrical supplies in line with procurement guidelines.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 796W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242309]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of temporary agency staff recruited through each company and the average length of time of employment for each person is not centrally held by the department.

These details could be ascertained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on departmental vehicles, how many vehicles were owned by the Department in each year. [243235]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office excluding its agencies and executive non-departmental bodies owned six vehicles in each of the years 2003-04 to 2006-07 and three vehicles in 2007-08.

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which legal firms have worked on the Robert Hamill Inquiry; for what periods; who each firm represented; how much his Department has spent on legal fees related to the Inquiry; how much has been spent on the Inquiry in each month since it was established; and when the Inquiry is expected to report. [243393]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Robert Hamill Inquiry that the following legal firms have worked on it.

Legal firm	*Period of engagement*	*Representation*
P. J. McGrory	July 2004 to date	Hamill family (Interested Party)
Eliott Duffy Garrett	June 2008	Legal services to the inquiry in relation to litigation conducted in Northern Ireland only

In accordance with the Robert Hamill Inquiry's published funding protocol, witnesses to the inquiry are also entitled to reasonable legal advice at the inquiry's expense and a number of firms have represented witnesses.

Legal firm	*Period of engagement*
Arthur J. Downey	February 2006 to date
Edwards and Co.	June 2006 to date
Emmet J. Kelly Solicitors	March 2006 to date
Gerard Maguire Solicitors	May 2006 to date
Gus Campbell Solicitors	February 2006 to date
John P. Hagan Solicitors	January 2008 to date
Richard Monteith	January 2006 to date
O'Connor and Moriarty Solicitors	November 2006 to date
Russell Jones Walker Solicitors	January 2007 to date
Hewitt and Gilpin	March 2006
Madden and Finucane	March to May 2006
G. R. Ingram	April 2006 to June 2008
Holmes and Moffitt	May 2006 to November 2008
Rafferty and Co.	June to November 2006
Kevin R. Winters	June to October 2006
Bogue and McNulty	March to July 2006

Legal firm	Period of engagement
MSC Daly (formerly Brangham Bagnall and Co.)	November 2006
John J. Rice and Co.	January to August 2008

Regarding the naming of the participants in the inquiry who these firms represent, the inquiry has not yet concluded the anonymity process. The inquiry is still receiving fresh and renewed applications on article 2 and medical grounds. It has an ongoing duty of care to all witnesses and cannot therefore give the names out at present. Once a witness has given their evidence or had their statement read out at the oral hearings, their name will be in the public domain. This is not the current position.

This schedule excludes witnesses who, subject to the inquiry's prior approval, will be granted two hours of legal advice and assistance prior to them giving oral evidence but no legal representation at the oral hearings. These costs have not yet been incurred.

The total cost incurred by the Robert Hamill Inquiry for legal fees is £7.57 million.

The monthly spend of the inquiry is as follows:

Total resource

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	£000 2004-05
April	462	290	137	109	—
May	565	327	245	103	—
June	622	187	466	343	—
July	657	244	147	96	—
August	493	450	805	565	—
September	338	203	-48	188	—
October	524	238	1,791	353	1
November	810	340	684	246	38
December	—	345	510	178	30
January	—	329	1,094	206	83
February	—	362	-132	274	75
March	—	1,131	489	747	182
Total	4,471	4,446	6,187	3,408	410

Total capital

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	£000 2004-05
April	0	0	0	1	—
May	7	0	0	10	—
June	3	0	5	9	—
July	31	0	0	-4	—
August	3	0	0	59	—
September	1	12	0	0	—
October	0	0	0	0	0
November	1	0	0	0	0
December	—	31	1	0	0
January	—	1	0	3	0
February	—	0	0	0	31
March	—	0	0	0	2
Total	47	44	6	77	33

The inquiry is expected to report by 31 August 2010.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which legal firms have worked on the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry; for what periods; who each firm represented; how much his Department has spent on legal fees for the inquiry; how much has been spent on the inquiry in each month since it was established; and when the inquiry is expected to report. [243398]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry that the following legal firms have worked on it:

Legal firm	Period of engagement	Representation
Eversheds LLP	May 2005 to date	Witness statement takers to the Inquiry
Cleaver Fulton Rankin, Solicitors	March 2006 to date	Legal advice and services
Treasury Solicitors	March 2005 to date	Legal advice and services
P J McGrory and Co, Solicitors and Advocates	September 2005 to date	Paul Nelson (Full Participant)
O'Hare Solicitors	December 2005 to date	Mrs Sheila Magee and family (Full Participant)

In accordance with the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry's published funding protocol, witnesses to the inquiry are also entitled to legal advice at the inquiry's expense and the following of firms have represented witnesses:

Legal firm	Period of engagement
Anderson Kill and Olick PC	Mar 2007 to July 2007
Bindman and Partners	June 2006 to date
MSC Daly Solicitors	August 2008 to date
Conor Downey and Co, Solicitors	August 2008 to date
P Drinan, Solicitor	March 2008 to date
Edwards and Co, Solicitors	October 2006 to date
Greg O'Neill, Solicitors	December 2007
G R Ingram and Co, Solicitors	August 2006 to date
McBurney and Company, Solicitors	October 2006 to date
McCartan Turkington Breen, Solicitors	November 2007 to date
MacDermott and McGurk, Solicitors	June 2007 to October 2007
McElhone and Co Solicitors	April 2007 to date
Madden and Finucane, Solicitors	January 2008
Millar McCall Wylie, Solicitors	May 2008 to date
Kevin R Winters and Co, Solicitors	June 2006 to date

Some of these firms have represented only anonymous witnesses, some have represented only witnesses seen in public, and some have represented both. For security (to preserve anonymity) and public interest reasons (not all the witnesses of either type have yet been called to give evidence) it is not felt appropriate to release even the names of the 'public' witnesses before the end of the hearings.

The total cost incurred by the Rosemary Nelson Inquiry for legal fees is £12.57 million.

The monthly spend of the inquiry is as follows:

Total Resource (£000)

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
April	348	751	-114	48	—
May	2,349	596	346	152	—
June	1,127	622	1,325	443	—
July	1,271	1,480	470	4	—
August	863	686	1,337	314	—
September	1,042	412	669	166	—
October	1,709	1,085	-180	318	—
November	1,334	1,238	673	447	38
December	—	53	399	69	30

Total Resource (£000)

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
January	—	1,158	1,731	484	46
February	—	789	2,357	234	121
March	—	1,308	414	743	283
Total	10,043	10,178	9,427	3,424	518

Total capital (£000)

	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
April	-2	4	-2	-	—
May	9	6	1	0	—
June	0	12	0	80	—
July	0	-5	0	-80	—
August	0	10	199	76	—
September	5	-1	5	0	—
October	13	19	0	21	0
November	-13	7	204	1	0
December	—	12	440	0	0
January	—	-19	0	0	0
February	—	16	145	1	31
March	—	33	-83	2	3
Total	12	94	909	102	34

The inquiry is expected to report by March 2010.

Mental Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244023]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office welcomes the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for the Department's policies on absence management, flexible working and learning and development.

Reoffenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals there are in Northern Ireland who were released under the early release scheme in 1998 and following re-arrest or conviction are now in prison. [245138]

Paul Goggins: Of the 450 persons released 'early' on their sentences under the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998, available information indicates that 13 persons are currently in prison following re-arrest and conviction. Of the 13, one is in prison in England and another is in prison in the Republic of Ireland. In addition a further person is in prison in Northern Ireland for breach of licence without having been convicted of a further offence and another is in prison in Northern Ireland on remand for alleged further offending.

Sexual Offences: Registration

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were on the sex offenders' register in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [246331]

Paul Goggins: The number of sex offenders in Northern Ireland subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 was as follows:

As at 31 March each year	*Number*
2008	774
2007	670
2006	620
2005	544

The majority of persons who come under the notification requirements are subject to a notification period of five years or more and the annual increase largely reflects the number of new convictions.

A breakdown of figures for sex offenders subject to the notification requirements was not recorded on an annual basis until 2005. I am not, therefore, able to provide the information requested for 2004.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

African Horse Sickness

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides compensation to owners of horses infected with African horse sickness which are destroyed by his Department's veterinary surgeons to prevent further infection. [244536]

Jane Kennedy: In the event of an outbreak of African horse sickness, the Animal Health Act 1981 provides for compensation to be paid for equines slaughtered under the Act where they are infected or suspected of being infected with the disease. DEFRA is committed to discussing with the equine industry the issue of compensation, including the appropriate level.

Where the affected equine has been imported and slaughtered under the Animals and Animals Products (Import and Export) (England) Regulations 2006, there is no duty under the regulations to pay compensation.

Agriculture: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has allocated to support sustainable livestock production in 2008-09. [244681]

Jane Kennedy: Support aimed at improving the competitiveness of the livestock industry is available under Axis 1 of Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Some £249 million will be spent in total on Axis 1 over the period 2007-13, and a minimum of £107 million out of that total will be specifically devoted to the sustainable livestock industry. In 2008-09 the minimum allocated to the livestock sector is £23 million.

Livestock producers also will benefit from both a proportion of the £1.5 billion that is paid annually to English farmers under the Single Payment Scheme and the £3.2 billion that has been allocated for agri-environmental schemes which operate under Axis 2 of the RDPE over the period 2007-13.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate his Department has made of unspent funds under the single payment scheme; and what plans he has to allocate this funding for Article 68 measures; [243176]

(2) what plans his Department has to allocate funding under Article 68 measures under the Common Agricultural Policy. [243177]

Jane Kennedy: The difference between payments to date under the 2007 Single Payment Scheme and the theoretical maximum is in the region of £50 million, largely as a result of farmers not claiming against all of their entitlements. No decisions have been made to date on the use of 'Article 68' measures.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the EU Common Agricultural Policy Health Check; and when he expects full decoupling to be achieved. [243461]

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1222-6W, on the Common Agricultural Policy, what recent assessment he has made of progress on decoupling as a result of the decisions made in the CAP Health Check. [243525]

Jane Kennedy: I refer to the written statement made to Parliament on 25 November by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) about the outcome of the CAP health check negotiations. We believe that the health check will take the level of decoupled farm payments from 89 per cent. to 96 per cent. by 2013, although we estimate that the use of "national envelopes" could reduce that amount by up to 2.7 per cent., depending on how member states choose to implement them. The Government will continue to press in the EU for full decoupling of all farm payments.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment his Department has made of progress towards meeting the Rural Payments Agency's target of administering 75 per cent. of single farm payments to farmers in England by the end of January; [244179]

(2) what percentage of farmers in England have received their single farm payments for 2008. [244180]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that I made on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 120WS.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of the 2007-08 budget for the Common Agricultural Policy was allocated to the 10 recipients who received the most in payments under the policy. [244231]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The percentage of the 2007-08 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget allocated to the 10 recipients in England who received the most in payments under the policy was 1.1 per cent.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many demands to repay overpayments have been made against single farm payment scheme claimants in each of the last three years; and how many repayments have been made. [244977]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims examined by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to date 6,557 overpayments invoices have been issued against SPS claimants broken down as follows for each of the last three years.

SPS scheme year	*Invoices issued*
2005	3,893
2006	2,248
2007	416

RPA has received repayments from 1,610 customers either in full, as part of a repayment agreement or as a partial interception of a claim.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* mean, *(b)* median, *(c)* highest and *(d)* lowest demand has been to repay overpayments made against single farm payment claimants in each of the last three years. [244978]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims examined to date the average, median, highest and lowest demand to repay overpayments made against SPS claimants in each of the last three scheme years are:

	Scheme year		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Average	4,292.46	4,339.64	2,804.88
Median	802.74	1,040.43	922.21
Highest	738,198.25	649,138.33	117,493.20
Lowest	68.21	67.95	252.29

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total amount received is as a result of overpayment claims for the single payment scheme in each of the last three years. [244979]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* To date we have received the following amounts as a result of overpayment claims, for each of the last three years:

SPS scheme year	*Value (£)*
2005	9,372,627.72
2006	4,046,321.80
2007	158,718.75
Total	13,577,668.27

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons reclaims of single farm payment overpayments were made in the latest period for which figures are available. [244980]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The Rural Payments Agency is obliged to recover overpayments. The reasons for these Single Payment Scheme (SPS) overpayments include entitlement correction work—some of which claimants asked us to carry out, partial payments—which were made in the 2005 and 2006 SPS scheme years and where the final claim value once validation is completed is now less than the amount paid and penalties.

Penalties can be applied to SPS applications for several reasons; submission of an application after the deadline, inaccuracies in an application, if a farmer does not meet cross compliance standards, or if they apply, set aside management rules. The size of the penalty will depend on the problem found. For example the size of a land penalty will depend on the amount of invalid land claimed. The size of a late submission penalty will depend on the number of days after the deadline on which an application was received.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Payment Scheme payments for 2008 have been made to people in Morecambe and Lunesdale constituency; and what percentage of farmers in that constituency have received payment. [246102]

Jane Kennedy: Detailed analysis of Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payments by constituency is not available.

From April 2009, in accordance with EC Commission Regulation 259/2008, SPS payment details will be available on the UK CAP payments website for payments made between 16 October 2007 and 15 October 2008, which is the EU financial year. Subsequent scheme payments will be published on this website each April, together with all other common agricultural policy payments made.

Animal Welfare: Codes of Practice

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which codes of conduct to be issued under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 the Government is currently working on; and which bodies have been appointed to advise on each code. [243291][1]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is currently consulting on three draft codes of practice to be made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006—cats, dogs and equines. We are also proposing to draft codes on the private keeping of primates and on the rearing of gamebirds for sporting purposes.

DEFRA has had the assistance and co-operation of the following stakeholders in the preparation of these codes:

Cat: British Small Animal Veterinary Association, Companion Animal Welfare Council, Feline Advisory Bureau, Pet Care Trust, Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals, Pet Food Manufacturers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and an independent veterinary adviser. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government acted as observers.

Dog: Companion Animal Welfare Council, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust, Kennel Club, Pet Care Trust, Pet Food Manufacturers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and an independent veterinary adviser. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales acted as observers.

Equine: DEFRA is consulting on a similar code of practice prepared by the Welsh Assembly Government. This code was prepared by Welsh Assembly Government in consultation with a number of horse interest bodies.

Primates: Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and a combination of animal keepers, dealers, with an interest in primates. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government will act as observers.

Gamebirds: Animal Health, British Association for Sport Shooting, Countryside Alliance, Country Landowners Association, Game Conservancy Trust, Game Farmers Association, League Against Cruel Sports, National Gamekeepers Association, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and two independent advisers. Representatives from the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly Government will act as observers.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has evaluated on the transmission of bluetongue disease during animal transit; and what measures he has put in place to inhibit the transmission of the disease. [242908]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has funded research on bluetongue which includes:

Studies on midge vectors, including surveys of abundance and seasonality, and biting rates.

Studies on use of insecticides to control vectors during transport, and the usefulness of housing in protecting livestock.

This research was used to define vector-free periods, and to provide advice about the conditions of movement licences regarding timing of movements and vector control.

This work was also used to contribute to the development of a model of bluetongue disease spread within and between farms. Collaborative work between the Meteorological Office and the Institute for Animal Health has resulted in tools to predict vector-borne disease incursions into the UK. This is currently being developed further.

The default control measures set out in legislation to combat bluetongue are aimed at preventing disease spread (through for example restriction of animal movement and through vector mitigation measures). Broadly, the controls can be summarised as follows:

Veterinary investigation on suspect premises, and restrictions which includes a ban on movement of susceptible animals on and off the premises.

On confirmation that bluetongue virus is circulating, restrictions remain in place and are extended to a zone of 20 km radius around the infected premises (IP).

Wider zone(s) must also be declared setting a protection zone and a surveillance zone (of at least 150 km radius around an IP).

Movement of susceptible animals out of these zones are banned except under licence (although animals can move freely within those zones) and we must implement surveillance programmes.

There is some flexibility in demarcating the zones (with Commission agreement), but various factors such as local geography must be taken into account.

1. *[Official Report, 9 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 9MC.]*

We have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This strategy was reviewed recently in light of this year's experience and to address risk from other serotypes, and was published on the DEFRA website on 1 December.

Details of the Control Strategy are currently available on the DEFRA website. Copies will also be placed in the House Library.

DEFRA continues to urge industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department provides compensation to farmers whose cattle have been destroyed by his Department's veterinary surgeons following the discovery of bluetongue. [244535]

Jane Kennedy: Compensation is payable for all animals which are compulsorily slaughtered for the purposes of disease control under the powers provided for in the Animal Health Act 1981 and the Bluetongue Regulations 2008. Compensation is paid under the Bluetongue (Compensation) Order 2007, at the market value of animals immediately before they are slaughtered.

However, compensation is not payable when imported animals are slaughtered under the powers provided for in the Animals and Animal Products (Import and Export) (England) Regulations 2006.

Imported animals have been culled under these powers on a number of occasions where the veterinary risk assessment warranted this, most recently with BTV1 infected animals in Lancashire. Compensation is not payable under these circumstances.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quantities of vaccine for the *(a)* BTV1 and *(b)* BTV6 strains of bluetongue disease are (i) available and (ii) on order. [242075]

Jane Kennedy: No vaccines against Bluetongue serotypes 1 or 6 are currently authorised for use in the UK.

DEFRA is in discussion with existing manufacturers of BTV1 vaccine, and companies with BTV1 vaccine in development, to encourage applications to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate for provisional marketing authorisations (PMAs). If vaccine should be required, the early granting of PMAs will help supply to the market to be achieved more quickly. DEFRA has not placed orders for vaccine against serotypes 1 or 6. To our knowledge, there are no BTV-6 vaccines yet in development.

We have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This strategy was reviewed recently in light of this year's experience and to address risk from other serotypes, and was published on the DEFRA website on 1 December.

DEFRA also continues to urge industry to consider the risks and check the health and vaccination status of animals when sourcing any animals, from within the UK or abroad.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the success rate of bluetongue vaccination in Gloucestershire was; how many strains of bluetongue virus have been identified; what evidence there is on the origin of each strain; and if he will make a statement. [244412]

Jane Kennedy: Bluetongue is caused by a virus within the Orbivirus genus of the family Reorvirades. At present 24 distinct serotypes have been identified as a result of serum neutralisation tests.

Bluetongue was first described in South Africa but has since been recognised in most countries in the tropics and sub-tropics. Since 1999 there have been widespread outbreaks of Bluetongue in Greece, Italy, Corsica (France) and the Balearic Islands (Spain). Cases also occurred in Europe in Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Kosovo and Yugoslavia. These cases have been well north and west of the disease's previous normal distribution. It appears that the virus has spread from both Turkey and North Africa.

Bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) was first found in Western Europe when it was detected in the Netherlands in summer 2006, after which it spread to Belgium, Luxembourg, Western Germany and parts of North East France in the same year. In 2007, Northern Europe experienced a dramatic increase of new cases in all existing infected areas, and cases numbered into the many tens of thousands as disease steadily spread across Europe.

Uptake of vaccine has varied by region in England and Wales and over time. Sales data from the supply chain suggests that enough vaccine has been sold across the whole of England in 2008 to vaccinate around 60 per cent. of susceptible animals. However, we cannot give accurate county specific data.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle have been slaughtered following tuberculosis infection in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by county; what progress his Department's TB eradication group has made; and if he will make a statement. [244415]

Jane Kennedy: The information is shown in the following table.

Total animals slaughtered under bovine TB control measures in England

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon	523	567	591	325	436
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	2	0
Berkshire	4	3	2	1	7
Buckinghamshire	43	1	11	21	100
Cambridgeshire	2	0	0	2	0
Cheshire	874	425	248	149	247
Cleveland	2	1	0	4	1
Cornwall	2,494	2,415	3,490	1,697	2,394

Total animals slaughtered under bovine TB control measures in England

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cumbria	275	510	168	114	29
Derbyshire	356	321	698	463	427
Devon	2,767	4,758	6,660	4,471	5,388
Dorset	408	413	450	336	657
Durham	9	3	3	0	11
East Sussex	31	48	58	125	43
Essex	1	0	0	1	0
Gloucestershire	1,936	1,287	2,436	1,506	1,666
Greater London—East	0	0	0	0	0
Greater London—South East	0	2	0	0	0
Greater Manchester	2	13	3	3	14
Hampshire	13	17	21	30	94
Hereford and Worcestershire	2,680	2,686	3,698	2,823	2,674
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	1	9	5	27	32
Isle of Wight	1	6	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	4	1	3	10	90
Lancashire	9	4	45	19	44
Leicestershire	82	104	44	90	179
Lincolnshire	4	11	66	23	34
Merseyside	0	0	20	3	6
Norfolk	1	2	0	1	33
North Yorkshire (40)	22	168	69	8	90
North Yorkshire (30)	1	1	2	3	4
Northamptonshire	19	18	26	43	88
Northumberland	27	11	31	28	12
Nottinghamshire	1	17	1	5	4
Oxfordshire	11	15	16	20	149
Shropshire	473	757	856	877	1,128
Somerset	1,051	932	965	913	1,314
South Yorkshire	1	1	0	1	1
Staffordshire	1,205	626	1,297	1,051	1,201
Suffolk	0	2	0	13	14
Surrey	2	10	1	0	3
Tyne & Wear	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	34	47	129	89	154
West Midlands	1	0	1	2	34
West Sussex	15	10	3	11	12
West Yorkshire	0	4	5	3	129
Wiltshire	1,180	1,080	1,113	660	835
Total	17,551	17,306	23,135	16,007	19,794

Data are available from 2003 to 2007. There is no full county breakdown available for this year.

The TB Eradication Group for England has met twice since the Secretary of State announced the establishment of the group on 3 November. The Group has discussed its work programme and priorities; the scientific evidence provided to the Secretary of State which formed part of the basis for his decision on badger culling; and the possible content of an eradication plan (including a discussion with the European Commission). The Group has also considered proposals for a revised policy on inconclusive reactors.

The TB Eradication Group's remit includes reviewing the current TB strategy and control measures and developing a plan for reducing the incidence of bovine TB in cattle in England. It will make recommendations to the Secretary of State on the disease and its eradication.

Cereals

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the tonnage of grain for *(a)* human consumption and *(b)* animal consumption was held in the UK on (i) 1 January, (ii) 1 March, (iii) 1 May, (iv) 1 July, (v) 1 September and (vi) 1 November in the last year for which figures are available. [241478]

Jane Kennedy: Grain stocks can be held at various points of the supply chain including farm stores, at ports, various processing facilities and at merchant and distribution stores.

Data on stocks held by the main processors, flour millers and maltsters, brewers and distillers are collected and published each month and can be accessed via the following link:

https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/statnot/statnot.htm.

Compost

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the evidential basis is for the Environment Agency's recommendation that a 250 metre buffer zone between a windrow composting site and the nearest residential dwelling is adequate for the protection of public health; and whether the same size of buffer zone applies where the composting process includes food waste. [244243]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The Environment Agency published a policy statement on composting and the potential health effects from bioaerosols produced as a result of the composting process in 2001. This set out its requirement for site specific bioaerosol risk assessments (for proposed composting facilities within 250 metres of dwellings or workplaces). The figure represents a precautionary measure and the point at which a site specific bio-aerosol risk assessment is required. The policy applies to all composting activities irrespective of waste type. Kitchen food waste cannot be composted in open windrows.

Since then, further work in this area has been undertaken by various parties. This has reiterated that there is insufficient information to determine the risk to human health from bioaerosols from composting. It has recommended that the trigger distance remain in place. This is a precautionary approach, based on research which has shown that bioaerosols should reduce to background levels within 250m. In 2007 the Environment Agency issued a revised policy statement which re-affirmed the need for site specific bioaerosol risk assessments to be carried out.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Environment Agency has had with the Health and Safety Executive on its 250 metre buffer zone between windrow composting sites and the nearest residential dwellings. [244244]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The Environment Agency continues to work closely with the Health and Safety Executive on bioaerosols from composting sites. For example, the Environment

Agency has recently published a science report based on work carried out by the Health and Safety Laboratory, "Bioaerosols in waste composting: deriving source terms and characterising profiles" (HSL labs). Published December 2008 as Science report SC040021/SR2.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Environment Agency has carried out wind turbulence modelling of the dispersion of bioaerosols in formulating its recommendations on the width of the buffer zone required between a windrow composting site and the nearest residences in different topographical conditions. [244245]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]*: Following a further review of available research the Environment Agency maintained its precautionary approach in its policy statement published in October 2007.

This requires bioaerosol risk assessments to take place if a proposed composting site is within 250 metres of dwellings or workplaces. Wind turbulence modelling has limited value for modelling dispersion of bioaerosols and was not used to formulate the position.

However in addition to conducting its own further research with the Health and Safety Laboratory, the Environment Agency recognises the value that might be added by work carried out by others and has arranged for this work to be peer reviewed.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many composting sites have been closed in England because of the potential impact of *(a)* bioaerosols, *(b)* odours, *(c)* environmental factors and *(d)* other factors on the health of residents living nearby in each of the last three years. [244246]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]*: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were prosecuted for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in 2007. [240812]

Jane Kennedy: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in England and Wales, during 2007 was 1,193.

Departmental Public Consultation

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on the public consultations it has held in the last 24 months. [246137]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA consults on a wide range of issues which are varied in nature. The Department does not record centrally the estimated costs for each consultation it launches, therefore to attach a value would involve disproportionate cost.

Dolphins: Denmark

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Denmark on the slaughter of dolphins in its territorial waters. [245885]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under international law, it is primarily for individual countries to regulate the management and killing of small cetaceans (dolphins and porpoises) in their own waters. The British Government do, however, feel very strongly about the welfare issues raised through the hunting of small cetaceans. Furthermore, it recognises that the protection and conservation of such species is very limited, and that they continue to be hunted in many parts of the world, often at unsustainable levels.

On 10 March 2008, my predecessor my hon. Friend for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw), was the keynote speaker at a seminar on commercial whaling held at the Danish Parliament buildings. The aim of the event—which was co-hosted by the British embassy and the Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals—was to raise awareness among the Danish public of the cruel and unsustainable nature of the killing of cetaceans.

DEFRA works within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to sponsor resolutions that raise the profile of this issue, and to encourage the IWC to adopt a strong position in favour of the protection of small cetaceans.

Please be assured that we will continue to raise these issues with Denmark directly, and in the IWC, at every appropriate opportunity.

Domestic: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 923W, (Mrs. Lait) on domestic waste: waste disposal, how much funding has been given to each local authority from the Behaviour Change Local Fund; and on what date each payment was made. [245917]

Jane Kennedy: In response to a previous question from the hon. Gentleman, the hon. Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) arranged for a list of local authorities awarded funding to be placed in the House Library on 14 January 2008, as the list was quite lengthy. The position is unchanged as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has not made any further payments since January 2008 from the Behaviour Change Local Fund.

In respect of the timing of such payments, the requested data concerns the detailed operational activities of WRAP and is not therefore held by DEFRA. I understand that the chief executive of WRAP has offered to meet the hon. Gentleman to discuss any issues of concern to him and I would encourage him to take up that offer.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*,

column 923W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, whether monies from the Behaviour Change Local Fund have been used to provide information about the case for alternate weekly collections. [245918]

Jane Kennedy: No monies from the Behaviour Change Local Fund have been used for this purpose.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1010W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* date of publication of each item of guidance issued to local authorities on the use of fixed penalty notices in relation to household waste is. [245929]

Jane Kennedy: The titles and publication dates of the items of guidance requested are as follows:

"Fixed Penalty Notices—Guidance on the Fixed Penalty Notice Provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and other legislation" published in November 2006:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/fixedpenaltynotices.pdf

"Local environmental enforcement—Guidance on the use of fixed penalty notices" published in March 2007:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/legislation/cnea/fixed-penalty-guidance.pdf

Environment Protection

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sites in England contaminated by activities during the second world war have yet to be cleaned up. [245603]

Jane Kennedy: Information on sites which qualify as "contaminated land" under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is held locally rather than nationally. This would include sites contaminated by activities during the second world war.

Responsibility for identifying and dealing with contaminated land under part 2A lies with local authorities. All local authorities are required to have strategies in place detailing how they plan to investigate their areas to identify and deal with contaminated sites.

Farmers: Transport

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the cross-compliance rules on permission for farmers to travel on wet land, with particular reference to recent weather conditions; and if he will make a statement. [244413]

Jane Kennedy: This summer saw unusually wet conditions and as a result DEFRA received requests from farmers for derogations to the cross compliance Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) standard prohibiting use of agricultural machinery on water logged soil. A derogation was granted which covered the period 10 September to 25 October 2008.

As part of a wider review of GAEC standards which is being conducted in response to the CAP Health Check, and to improve the standards where possible, we are considering how we can give greater responsibility and flexibility to farmers to manage the risks to their soil, including from the use of machinery on water logged land. We expect to consult on any proposed changes in 2009.

Farms: Local Authorities

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of Sir Don Curry's report on the future of council-owned farms. [244251]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have long made clear their support for the continuation of the county farm system. I therefore welcome the recent paper by Sir Don Curry on "The Importance of the County Farms Service to the Rural Economy" and fully support Sir Don's views and his recommendations for preserving the future of local authority estates. Local authorities should be free to manage their smallholdings estates as they see fit because they are in the best position to make decisions in their areas in the interests of the communities they serve. Nevertheless, we recognise the important role of county farms and would urge local authorities to act on Sir Don's recommendations.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities have smallholdings; what the area is of each such smallholding; and what assessment he has made of each local authority's plans for its smallholdings. [244257]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the distribution and size of smallholding estates held by local authorities in England as at 31 March 2007 which is the latest readily available information.

Local authorities should be free to manage their smallholdings estates as they see fit because they are in the best position to make decisions in the interests of the communities they serve. We therefore do not make assessments of each local authority's plans for its smallholdings.

Area of smallholdings land held by smallholdings authorities as at 31 March 2007

County/ Unitary Authority	*Land let as smallholdings*	*Land held but not let as smallholdings*	*Total small-holdings land*
	Hectares	*Hectares*	*Hectares*
Bedfordshire	2,641	371	3,012
Berkshire West	117	—	117
Bournemouth	100	3	103
Brighton and Hove	4,263	26	4,289
Buckinghamshire	1,467	109	1,576
Cambridgeshire	12,275	1,632	13,907
Cheshire	3,920	212	4,132
City of York	103	31	134
Cornwall	4,461	109	4,570
Cumbria	261	98	359
Devon	4,146	—	4,146
Dorset	2,792	54	2,846

Area of smallholdings land held by smallholdings authorities as at 31 March 2007

County/ Unitary Authority	Land let as smallholdings	Land held but not let as smallholdings	Total smallholdings land
	Hectares	Hectares	Hectares
Durham	897	204	1,101
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,826	7	2,833
East Sussex	43	21	64
Essex	102	9	111
Gloucestershire	3,491	9	3,500
Hampshire	1,806	132	1,938
Hartlepool	88	—	88
Herefordshire	2,029	96	2,125
Hertfordshire	1,944	93	2,037
Lancashire	27	77	104
Leicestershire	2,909	67	2,976
Lincolnshire	8,156	21	8,177
Medway	82	—	82
Milton Keynes	447	—	447
Norfolk	6,710	233	6,943
Northamptonshire	335	1	336
North Lincolnshire	424	—	424
North Somerset	333	—	333
Northumberland	337	7	344
North Yorkshire	2,228	111	2,339
Nottinghamshire	270	534	804
Oxfordshire	381	19	400
Peterborough	1,242	1	1,243
Shropshire	714	25	739
Slough	3	—	3
Somerset	2,863	383	3,246
South Gloucestershire	491	3	494
Staffordshire	3,474	48	3,522
Suffolk	5,157	286	5,443
Surrey	854	157	1,011
Swindon	828	—	828
Thurrock	202	—	202
Torbay	25	—	25
Warrington	28	35	63
Warwickshire	2,001	21	2,022
West Sussex	304	59	363
Wiltshire	2,404	27	2,431
Worcestershire	1,602	54	1,656
Total	94,603	5,385	99,988

[1] The above information is taken from a table included in the 57 draft annual report to Parliament on statutory smallholdings.

Farms: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which procedures have to be followed to enable a farmer to remove waste dumped on his farmland; what the cost of those procedures to the farmer is; what estimate he has made of the average cost to farmers of applying such procedures; and if he will make a statement. [246278]

Jane Kennedy: A farmer has a range of options for removing waste dumped illegally on his farmland. If the waste is posing an immediate threat to human health or the environment, he should contact the Environment Agency for advice. If the waste is of a non-hazardous nature, he must either remove the waste himself to a registered disposal site or contract a registered waste carrier to remove it for him. In both instances he should contact his local authority who may be able to offer support and advice. The exact cost of removal would depend on the nature and volume of waste deposited.

I have recently corresponded or discussed this issue with a number of farming and other landowner organisations.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has for the £20 million for flood defence expenditure announced in the pre-Budget report; [241498]

(2) what the evidential basis was for the statement in the pre-budget report that 27,000 homes will be protected from flooding with the help of the £20 million funding announced; and where those homes are located. [241642]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following the Government's announcement that £20 million will be brought forward for flood defence schemes from 2010-11 to 2009-10, an estimated 27,405 households will benefit from new or improved flood risk protection a year earlier than planned.

Funding will be allocated by the Environment Agency. The exact location of households benefiting will be dependent upon schemes passing the necessary feasibility studies and planning applications, as well as final approval for projects, which will be determined in February 2009. The Environment Agency has issued a list of schemes expected to be brought forward as a result. Copies of the list have been placed in the Library of the House.

Food Supply

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of changes in *(a)* nitrogen prices and *(b)* levels of nitrogen supply on food production; and if he will make a statement. [244516]

Jane Kennedy: Agricultural production is affected by a large number of factors and no specific assessment has been made of the impact of the changes in nitrogen prices and levels of supply.

In October DEFRA published its first forecast of total income from farming for the UK for 2008. This took into account the impact on input costs of changes in nitrogen prices and usage. A revised forecast will be published at the end of January together with forecasts of farm incomes in England by farm type for 2008-09. These will also take into account the change in nitrogen prices between 2007-08 and 2008-09.

A fuller economic analysis of the agriculture industry and of commodity production and supply, reflecting the full range of factors impacting on the sector, will be published in "Agriculture in the United Kingdom" in March 2009.

Food: Contamination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* funded into the effect of animal disease on food security in the last 12 months. [242886]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has not commissioned/funded any work specifically into the effect of animal disease on food security. However, we continue to fund research, to the value of £1.6 million annually, on a number of major endemic diseases of livestock, including cattle, sheep, pig and poultry, which seriously affect or are a serious potential threat to livestock production and thus food security. In addition, there is a programme of research, costing in the region of £8 million annually, on exotic diseases aimed at protecting UK livestock from exotic disease incursions.

One of the ways in which we are able to minimise the effects of animal disease on UK food security is by having a supply of livestock products from a wide range of countries, including the UK, which effectively spreads the risk. Disease outbreaks in the UK or elsewhere in the world affecting our trading partners should prompt a swift response in trade flows as the market seeks to offset the impacts of any supply disruption.

Food: Labelling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on advertisements for products produced with meat from EU countries other than Britain carrying the British tractor assured label; and what guidance he has issued to food retailers on the use of the label on foodstuffs produced elsewhere in the EU. [245707]

Jane Kennedy: The "Red Tractor" scheme is operated by Assured Food Standards, a company that is owned by representatives of the entire food chain from farmers to retailers. As a privately owned scheme it is the responsibility of Assured Food Standards to satisfy itself that it complies with food law, which makes it an offence to mislead the consumer as to the origin of food.

Game: Birds

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to reduce the level of intensive rearing and farming of game birds; and what advice he has received from the Farm Animal Welfare Council on this matter. [241708]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is in the process of setting up a working group to draft a code of practice on the rearing of game birds for sport shooting.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council recently published its opinion on the welfare of farmed game birds containing their recommendations on certain management practices. The opinion will guide the working group in the drafting of a code of practice.

Game: Gun Sports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on gamebird shooting; and if he will make a statement. [246329]

Jane Kennedy: The Government's policies towards the game bird industry are consistent with the 2005 rural manifesto which stated that

> "We will work with the relevant bodies to ensure that country sports are protected while ensuring high standards of environment protection, animal welfare and safety".

We have no plans to restrict the sport of shooting.

Horse Racing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2187-8W, on horse racing, if he will make it his policy to gather statistics on thoroughbred fatalities on British racecourses. [244578]

Jane Kennedy: We have no plans to gather such statistics.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2188W, on horse racing, if he will make an annual assessment of the welfare issues arising from surplus breeding of race horses. [244579]

Jane Kennedy: We have no plans to make such an assessment.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2188W, on horse racing, what assessment he has made of the levels of competence of veterinary surgeons charged with destroying injured horses on British racecourses. [246315]

Jane Kennedy: We have made no such assessment. However, any veterinary surgeon registered by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is obliged to follow a guide to professional conduct. This includes the requirement that they (i) keep their skills and knowledge up to date (ii) keep within their own areas of competence save for the requirement to provide emergency first aid and (iii) continue their professional education by keeping up to date with the general developments in veterinary science, particularly in their area of professional activity.

Horses: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has performed a cost/benefit analysis on the EU requirement for foals born after 1 July 2009 to be identified by a microchip linked to a horse passport; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing such a requirement in the first 12 months of its operation. [241483]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is currently consulting on the implementation of Commission Regulation (EC) 504/2008 of 6 June 2008. The consultation document includes a draft Impact Assessment (IA) which estimates the costs and benefits of the new legislation.

The consultation document and draft IA can be found on the DEFRA website.

Incinerators

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on alternatives to incineration; and what potential exists within private finance initiatives for localised waste solutions. [242909]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with the Local Government Association on incineration. Private finance initiative waste infrastructure projects are initiated by the local authorities and are therefore always tailored to local circumstances.

On 26 November, I met Paul Bettison, Chairman of the LGA environment board to discuss a number of issues concerned with waste and flood management.

Joint Waste Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities on average he expects to comprise each joint waste authority. [245893]

Jane Kennedy: There is no target or average for the number of local authorities expected to comprise each joint waste authority. The joint waste authority model is a voluntary option for local authorities who will need to decide whether or not such a model is appropriate for them.

Litter: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the penalties imposed for littering and fly-tipping on industrial and retail parks. [242797]

Jane Kennedy: We have no plans to increase the penalties for littering and fly-tipping on industrial and retail parks.

Livestock: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the estimated cost to *(a)* farmers and *(b)* the public purse of electronic identification of sheep is for its first year of operation; and if he will make a statement; [244514]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of electronic identification of sheep on *(a)* hill farmers' incomes and *(b)* management of upland ecosystems; and if he will make a statement. [244515]

Jane Kennedy: A regulatory impact assessment has been produced for England, a copy of which is available on the DEFRA website. An updated version to take account of changes to Council Regulation 21/2004 that were negotiated over the summer and more detailed implementation options will accompany the consultation that is planned for the spring.

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Conference

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the speeches and presentations made by representatives of the Environment Agency at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Conference in November 2008. [245900]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold a copy of the presentation made by the Environment Agency at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee Conference.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the right hon. Member for Liverpool, Worcester (Jane Kennedy), who is responsible for Farming and the Environment to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean of 12 September and 26 November regarding surface water charges. [246573]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The matter is still under review and I will respond in full as soon as a final decision is taken.

Packaging

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to bring producers of *(a)* packaging, *(b)* chewing gum and *(c)* cigarettes within the remit of regulations on producer responsibility. [242799]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to bring producers of chewing gum and cigarettes within the remit of regulations on producer responsibility.

Pet Travel Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pet passports have been issued in each of the last three years. [241470]

Jane Kennedy: Animal Health have issued 60,000 blank certificates to veterinary practices in each of the last three years. We do not keep records of how many passports are issued by veterinary practices.

Poultry: Exports

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of UK poultry exports of the UK's avian influenza-free status; and if he will make a statement. [243686]

Jane Kennedy: The UK was able to resume trade in live poultry and poultry products with its European Union partners on 8 July last year. Subsequently, the UK achieved official international recognition of avian influenza freedom by the World Organisation for Animal Health on 20 November. We are currently working with our industry stakeholders to identify the key third country markets which need to be reopened and the best way to take negotiations forward in each case.

Recycling

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Environment Agency, *(b)* Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee and *(c)* Local Government Association on market conditions in the recycling sector. [242702]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has maintained close contact with a wide range of stakeholders to discuss the situation with regards to the markets for recyclable materials.

Based on these discussions, our priorities are:

to further promote waste minimisation;

to maintain public confidence that recycling is worthwhile to ensure continuity of collection systems for recyclables;

to focus on producing high quality marketable recyclables;

to ensure any storage of recyclables do not undermine the environment or public health or the recyclability of those materials;

where the traditional markets for recyclables have contracted, to encourage the most sustainable recovery and disposal options—i.e. landfill as a last resort; and

to avoid actions which exacerbate the situation while markets stabilise.

Officials continue to work with the Environment Agency, the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee and the Local Government Association in order to monitor market developments.

On 17 December I met representatives of the packaging industry.

Recycling: Exports

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of recovered *(a)* ferrous metal, *(b)* non-ferrous metal, *(c)* plastic, *(d)* paper and cardboard, *(e)* glass and *(f)* wood was exported in 2007. [243417]

Jane Kennedy: The following table details the proportion of recovered ferrous metal, paper and board, and glass cullet that was exported from the UK in 2007. Figures for non-ferrous metal, plastic and wood are not currently available.

Exports as a proportion of recovery, UK, 2007

	Percentage
Ferrous metal	50
Paper and board	54
Glass cullet	18

Recycling: Tyres

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to promote and increase the recycling of tyres. [245436]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have fully implemented the EU landfill directive which bans the disposal of whole and shredded used tyres in landfills and is therefore an important driver for tyre recycling.

The Government working closely with industry have ensured that there is sufficient recycling and recovery capacity to handle the 48 million tyres produced annually. Recycling and recovery includes the use of baled tyres in certain construction projects and the use of tyre crumb in the manufacture of sports and safety surfaces. Used tyres are also utilised as a substitute fuel in cement kilns and pyrolysis plants.

The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) ran a successful tyre programme from 2005 to 2008. This led to the development of two publicly available standards for tyre shred and crumb and for tyre bales and the development of markets for their use.

In addition the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) leads a Used Tyre Working Group which focuses on the re-use, recycling and recovery of used tyres. The group has a wide-ranging membership drawn from the tyre industry, the Government and WRAP.

Rural Payments Agency: ICT

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the Rural Payments Agency's upgrade of its IT system to the Epsilon programme. [245801]

Jane Kennedy: The Epsilon IT changes were delivered at a cost of £8.56 million. This reflects costs over a 12-month lifecycle from design through to implementation.

The core components in scope included:

mandatory policy changes to allow accurate Single Payment Scheme 2008 payments;

automated management of customer land transfer details;

simplified management of customer entitlements;

providing a unique point of access for customer documents.

The cost includes design, build and delivery of a functional system but excludes wider business change costs.

Slaughterhouses

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely costs to *(a)* farmers and *(b)* abattoirs of the implementation of the EU regulations that require slaughterhouses to appoint an animal welfare officer; what assessment he has made of the effect of these regulations on the profitability of abattoirs; and if he will make a statement. [246812]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission published proposals for a regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing on 22 September 2008. This includes proposals to require the appointment of an Animal Welfare Officer in every abattoir over a minimum size. An EU impact assessment was published alongside the proposal and this is available on the European Commission website.

A UK impact assessment is currently being prepared. This will consider the costs and benefits of the proposed regulation including the cost to farmers and abattoirs. The impact assessment will be included with the consultation document on the proposed regulation which will be published in early 2009. This will provide an opportunity for those affected by the proposed regulation to give their views and to comment on the assumptions used to assess its impact.

Sustainable Development Commission: Public Appointments

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the future chairmanship of the Sustainable Development Commission; and whether Sir Jonathan Porritt has indicated whether he would be willing to continue as chair beyond his term ending in July 2009. [241976]

Jane Kennedy: In July 2009, Sir Jonathon Porritt will complete his third term as chair of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). Under the Code of Practice published by the Commissioner for Public Appointments this is the maximum number of terms allowed for one individual in a body such as the SDC.

As the sponsoring department for the SDC, DEFRA has begun the process of appointment of a new chair. This process is being managed in line with the Office for the Commissioner for Public Appointments guidelines in order to have a new chair appointed before the end of July 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Hilary Benn) and I are grateful for the service that Sir Jonathan Porritt has given to the Commission since his appointment in 2000.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to how the terms of the EU Habitats Directive could be met with respect to fish stocks if a Severn barrage were to be constructed. [244317]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study is considering a number of proposed electricity generation schemes, not barrages exclusively.

Full consideration is being given to potential impacts of a tidal power scheme on migratory and estuarine fish. A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is being undertaken, together with a strategic level habitats regulations assessment (HRA), the preliminary stage of which has already commenced. The HRA is being conducted under the terms of the habitats regulations, the instrument by which the habitats directive is translated into UK law. These assessments include all designated migratory fish species of the Severn estuary and relevant tributaries including the rivers Usk and Wye.

Subject to internal review, preliminary studies on fish impacts and the preliminary HRA screening will be published in the new year, alongside public consultation on the scope of the strategic environmental assessment. Further studies are planned during 2009 and will be published later.

Veterinary Medicine

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that veterinary surgeons who are required to destroy injured thoroughbreds on racecourses as part of their duties *(a)* have sufficient training and *(b)* are periodically assessed to ensure that their standard of competence is maintained. [242392]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has no plans to ensure the competence of veterinary surgeons attending racecourses. Both the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the British Horseracing Authority have rules in place which address this concern.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to require at least two means of humane despatch for an injured racehorse to be available immediately to the veterinary surgeon on duty at a racecourse. [242393]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has no plans to introduce such a requirement. However, the British Horseracing Authority require that when racehorses need to be humanely destroyed, that the horse is either shot with a silenced weapon or that chemical means are used. The choice of which method should be used is a matter of professional judgment for the veterinary surgeon.

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to bring forward proposals to update the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. [243696]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently no plans to update or replace the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (VSA).

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist local authorities in the disposal of waste stored in warehouses and other storage facilities. [242796]

Jane Kennedy: With the aim of helping local authorities, DEFRA is taking the following steps:

(i) supporting the Environment Agency in relaxing the rules on storage of recyclable wastes;

(ii) encouraging the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and other bodies to help identify alternative market outlets for recyclable wastes, both domestic and international.

Waste Disposal: Greater London

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which steps his Department has taken to evaluate the new multi-modal refuse collection vehicle for London. [244879]

Jane Kennedy: Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places the duty to collect commercial and household waste in England on waste collection authorities. These authorities are better placed than central Government to make decisions on the best sustainable waste management strategy for their area and consequently DEFRA does not interfere in these decisions.

It would be a matter for the local authority planning to use a particular vehicle or collection methodology to assess all aspects of its suitability.

Waste Disposal: Hazardous Substances

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received calling for the introduction of incentives for the full recovery of hazardous waste oil; and if he will make a statement. [243908]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA officials have received regular correspondence from representatives of the oil recycling sector about the issues relating to the recovery of waste oil and have also held meetings with the oil recycling sector to discuss these issues.

Waste Management

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will require the Environment Agency to provide guidance to local authorities on the most suitable type of waste management treatment facility appropriate to the geography of the area in which it is to be sited, taking account of the nearness to residents, topography and the local flora and fauna. [244247]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* While general guidance has been provided by both bodies, it is not within the remit either of the Health and Safety Executive or the Environment Agency to provide guidance to individual local authorities on what is the suitable type of waste management treatment facility for their area.

Specific guidance for local authorities through Planning Policy Statement 10 (PPS10) is also to be taken into account by waste planning authorities and forms part of the national waste management plan for the UK.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people were prosecuted for the offence of inviting, causing or permitting a child or young person to gamble in each of the last five years. [240340]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of persons proceeded against in magistrates courts for certain offences for gambling in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

The relevant sections of the Gambling Act 2005 Sections 46, 47, 56 and 57 came into force on 1 September 2007.

Data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, is unable to separately identify Sections 46 and 47 as they are grouped together.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against in magistrates courts for certain offences relating to Gambling in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Proceeded against
2003	2
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Gambling Act 2005 SS.46, 47, 48 & 62(1)(a)-(c) & (2)
Inviting children and young persons to gamble; participation by young persons in gambling.
(People under 18 are not allowed to gamble)
Gambling Act 2005 SS.47 & 49 & 62(1)(b)&(2)
Invitation to enter premises; young persons entering premises.
(Child and young person may not enter gambling premises)
Gambling Act 2005 S.56 & 62(1)(a)-(c) & 2, 62(1)(b)&(2)
Invitation to participate in lottery: inviting, causing or permitting a child to take part in a lottery
Gambling Act 2005 S.57 & 62(1)(a)-(c) & 2, 62(1)(b)&(2)
Invitation to participate in football pools: inviting, causing or permitting a child to take part in football pools
Betting Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963, sec 21(a).
Betting with young person.
Betting Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963, sec 21 (b) and (c).
Employing young persons.
Betting Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963, sec 21 (b) and (c).
Employing young persons.
Gaming Act, 1968 Sec 23 -6.
False statement for purpose of obtaining a certificate of approval under Section 19 of this Act or reinstatement of same after revocation by the board.
Lotteries and Amusements Act 1976 Sec 13. and Schedules 1 and 2, Secs 14, 2, 3, 4.
Contravening lotteries Regs 1977. Local and Societies' lotteries contravene requirements of Secs 5 - 12. Prize competitions. General lottery offences. Small lotteries incidental to exempt entertainments. Private lotteries.
[4] The relevant sections of the Gambling Act 2005 Sections 46, 47, 56 and 57 came into force on 1 September 2007.
Source:
OCJR - E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

British Library: Exhibitions

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which towns in England the British Library's Sacred exhibition is visiting. [245565]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has visited the exhibition and said:

"The Sacred exhibition is a wonderful, tangible example of how to promote mutual understanding of Christianity, Judaism and Islam."

However, Communities and Local Government does not have responsibility for the British Library's 'Sacred' exhibition. Information about the touring exhibition is available on the British Library's website, which states that the exhibition will visit Manchester, Leicester, Bradford, Leeds and Liverpool.

Community Development Foundation

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff the Community Development Foundation employs; how many of these work on cohesion and integration; and what funding her Department will provide to the Foundation in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two years. [245531]

Mr. Khan: Community Development Foundation (CDF) currently employs 64 staff: 55 full-time and nine part-time across offices in England, Scotland and Wales. CDF recently aligned its resources to meet its three strategic aims of Empowered, Cohesive and Strong Communities. As a result they employ a Head of Cohesion, and a policy officer is being recruited to work on cohesion policy. In addition a significant number of other programme-funded staff are also involved in cohesion-related work to varying degrees. Details can be found in CDF's annual report at

www.cdf.org.uk.

CDF is receiving up to £1,500,000 grant in aid funding in 2008-09. This represents 40 per cent. of its projected unrestricted income for the year. Subject to parliamentary approval, funding allocated for 2009-10 is £1,545,000, and for 2010-11 is £1,590,000.

Community Network For Manchester: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 958W, on Greater Manchester, how much funding has been given to the Community Network for Manchester through *(a)* the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and *(b)* the Working Neighbourhoods Fund. [245931]

Mr. Khan: CN4M were constituted as an organisation on 22 March 2007. They have received NRF and WNF from that date as follows:

For 2007-08, CN4M were allocated NRF of £805,000

For 2008-09, CN4M were allocated WNF of £677,300

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects the National Community Forum to publish research on the experience of poor white communities, referred to on page 29 of the report, The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion; [245546]

(2) when she expects the National Community Forum to publish a report on what works to promote interaction between neighbourhoods, as referred to on page 46 of the report, The Government's Response to the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [245548]

Mr. Khan: The National Community Forum is an advisory non-departmental public body. It has told me that it expects to publish these reports shortly.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what further research she plans to commission to develop the Government's understanding of radicalisation and enhance its analytical powers; and what the timescale is for such research. [245555]

Mr. Khan: Our plans for further research are being developed currently. They contribute to a wider cross-government Prevent research programme and are likely to comprise a mix of classified and unclassified projects.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which are the countries with strong links to the UK referred to on page 7 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery; and how these countries will implement work to support their communities overseas. [245557]

Mr. Khan: The UK, and some of the communities here, retains strong links with a number of countries due to historic migration. It is of course for the governments of such countries to decide how they maintain connections with their diaspora communities overseas, for example in order to promote commercial links.

In respect of the Prevent strategy, the Government's work to increase the resilience of communities to engage with and resist violent extremists includes work with diaspora communities in the UK. We will also work in partnership with other countries, in particular those with whom we have these strong ties, to reduce the threat from violent extremism. We will do this in various ways, including through ministerial and official meetings, sharing experience and best practice, and joint cooperation.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the national de-radicalisation programme referred to on page 29 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England is expected to be in the three years from 2008-09; how many such schemes are currently operational; and if she will make a statement. [245562]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for Security and Counter Terrorism has approved £1.37 million over the CSR period for five projects delivering interventions for individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremism, which involve a de-radicalisation element.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many vulnerable individuals have been referred to the Channel Project referred to on page 28 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England. [245563]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2007 and September 2008 around 178 referrals have been made to the Channel Project.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who has responsibility for creating the points of referral for vulnerable individuals cited on page 27 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; where these points of referral will be; who will refer vulnerable individuals to these points of referral; what support will be available to those individuals referred; what safeguards will exist to ensure that individuals are not referred mistakenly; what rights of appeal individuals will have against erroneous referrals; and if she will make a statement. [245564]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The Prevent Strategy: a Guide for Local Partners in England makes it clear that local partners, including the police and local authorities need to develop local processes for referral of those vulnerable to radicalisation. A range of agencies and local organisations will refer individuals ranging from community organisations through to further and higher educational organisations and youth offending teams. Local areas should construct a programme of interventions that are appropriately tailored to an individual who has been identified as vulnerable to the pull of violent extremism. When an individual is referred they will be assessed for the level of risk they pose and suitable voluntary interventions, diversionary activity and support will be offered in response.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to set up the team to analyse Prevent issues referred to on page 41 of The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; how many people the team will comprise; and what estimate she has made of the annual cost of operating the team in the three years from 2008-09. [245595]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The JTAC Prevent analytical team was set up in March 2008 and currently comprises of seven team members. The approximate staffing costs for the team are £224,927 per annum. In addition to the salary costs, we have invested £405,098 in IT for the team.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 340W, on community relations: religion, when she expects to announce an independent review to examine with communities how to build the capacity of Islamic seminaries; who she expects to carry out the review; when she plans that it should report; what she estimates it will cost; and if she will make a statement. [245509]

Mr. Khan: The university of Gloucestershire has been contracted to undertake the independent review of training for Muslim faith leaders. The review will work with training institutions in the UK to assess current provision for training Muslim faith leaders, and will also consider best practice models in the UK and internationally. It will then make recommendations for the education and training sector and Muslim communities to take forward, and Government to facilitate where appropriate.

The estimated cost of the review is £139,000 (excluding VAT). We expect the review to report in summer 2009.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Mosque and Imams National Advisory Body will play in assisting the UK Border Agency to develop pre-entry requirements for ministers of religion coming from abroad; what these requirements are likely to be; when they are likely to be implemented; and if she will make a statement. [245540]

Mr. Khan: Under the new points based system, religious workers will be able to apply to enter the UK by using either a sub-category of Tier 2 (skilled workers) or a sub-category of Tier 5 (temporary workers). Tier 2 and Tier 5 were launched on 27 November 2008.

During the development of this policy UKBA engaged with a wide number of religious stakeholders, including the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board, and will continue to work closely with them.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 19W, on community relations: Islam, what the cost was of developing the framework of minimum standards for all imams and Muslim chaplains engaged in public service; and how much the pilots will cost in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two subsequent years. [245541]

Mr. Khan: The Experience Corps were awarded £89,708 (excluding VAT) to produce a report based on assessment, collation and analysis of data to establish an evidence base on the existing provision of chaplaincy including standards and recruitment processes, and to develop a draft framework of standards and recruitment process to be used voluntarily by institutions when engaging Muslim chaplains in public service.

Following a tendering process in August 2008, Faith Matters have been contracted to carry out pilots of these draft standards and recruitment framework. The

pilots are projected to cost £80,000 in 2008-09 and £30,000 in 2009-10. No money is forecast to be spent on this project in 2010-11.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which areas she plans to pilot a framework of recruitment standards for Muslim faith leaders in chaplaincy roles in public institutions; how the pilots will be evaluated; when this framework will be rolled out nationally; and if she will make a statement. [245542]

Mr. Khan: Following a tendering process in August 2008, the contract to pilot the draft framework of standards and recruitment framework for institutions engaging Muslim chaplains in public service has been awarded to Faith Matters. Faith Matters will carry out a number of pilots in different institutions across the country over the next six months. The evaluation of the pilots will incorporate the views of relevant officers within participating institutions, as well as wider stakeholder consultation with Imams, other faith leaders, chaplains, and officials from other Government Departments and relevant associated agencies.

Using key findings from evaluation of the pilots and stakeholder consultation, Faith Matters will produce updated versions of the standards framework and recruitment process, with accompanying notes and a report listing key actions that need to be taken when implementing the documents. These finalised documents will be promoted by Faith Matters for voluntary use in public institutions from early summer 2009.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Muslim organisations have received funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund since June 2007. [245549]

Mr. Khan: The list of all organisations who received funding through the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund in 2007-08 has been placed in the House Library.

The list of all organisations currently receiving funding through the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund in 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out as follows:

Capacity building

Organisation	*Project description*
British Muslim Forum	BMF will develop their own capacity and sustainability by recruiting to four posts. This will enable them to work with local Muslim organisations across the country to develop their own working arrangements and governance structures.
Business in the Community (BiTC)	Mosaic Muslim Media Network for Muslims working in the media sector to build the confidence of community groups and leaders to engage the media.
GW Theatre Company	GW Theatre will build their organisational infrastructure in order to deliver a national tour of their production 'One Extreme to the Other'. Aimed at young people aged 14 to 25 and adults too, "One Extreme to the Other" offers a powerful theatrical stimulus to debate about issues relating to extremism and is accompanied by a comprehensive multi-media follow-up package to inform further discussion and lead in good practice. They aim to deliver 110 performances over the next three years.
Khayaal Theatre Company	Khayaal Theatre Company plans to build its capacity for growth and sustainability in order to deliver between 200 to 250 performances of their two plays 'Hearts and Minds' and 'Sun and Wind' in schools across the country over the next three years. Both of these plays address the issues of radicalisation and extremism as they manifest themselves in families and communities.
Muslim Youth Helpline	Capacity building for MYH to recruit a Helpline Care Manager to develop the Helpline's support services and extend the reach of its support services to support vulnerable young people at risk of radicalisation in 'hard to reach' communities, such as the Somali and Eastern European Muslim communities.
Association of Muslim Chaplains in Education (AMCED)	AMCED will build its organisational capacity to effectively deliver new services to Muslim chaplains to promote community cohesion and prevent violent extremism. This will involve recruitment and training of new staff, development and launch of their website.

Supporting youth

Organisation	*Project description*
Common Purpose	Common Purpose will deliver leadership training courses for younger members of the Muslim community: 'Your Turn'—a schools programme for year 9 pupils in London, Manchester, Birmingham and in West Yorkshire. 'Frontrunner'—a programme for young leaders in higher education. A customized 'Frontrunner' programme for 40 young Muslim leaders who are not in full time education or who cannot make the dates of the three open programmes. 'Navigator'—a programme in every region of the UK for first career leaders—Navigator.
Local Leagues Limited	Programme of sports coaching and local competitions as preventative and diversionary activities for Muslim young people (aged eight to 19 years) and engagement of undergraduates with policy makers and decision makers.
Karimia Institute	Develop the work of the Muslim Youth Development Partnership, funded by CLG in 2007-08 to train and support 150 volunteer Muslim Youth Leaders over three years.
Bradford Police Club for Young People	Engagement of young people through workshops and informal classroom settings to examine the relationship between peace, violence, conflict and war with a particular emphasis on questions of applied ethics involving school teachers and youth community workers as trained Educators.
Muslim Youthwork Foundation	Scholarship programme for 10 individuals to undertake a National Youth Association accredited training course to qualify as Muslim youth and community workers.
UK Race and Europe Network	Pilot of a citizenship toolkit resource to support the work of young leaders, youth workers, teachers, Imams and parents which has been developed using CLG funding in 2007-08.
One Voice Europe	Engagement of young Muslim and Jewish students in a youth leadership development training course to build and promote a consensus for a peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East.
Changemakers Foundation	Continuation of 2007-08 CLG funded project to deliver a youth leadership programme to develop young leaders to become 'Changemakers' and develop and deliver projects in their own communities.

Supporting youth

Organisation	*Project description*
Nasiha	Youth Citizen Capacity Building Project to network young people in higher education to educate and support Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils in mosque schools.

Supporting women

Organisation	*Project description*
Faith Matters	UK tour of Muslim women role models from the US. Women will be drawn from careers such as TV presenters, researchers, civil servants, business entrepreneurs, civil society organisational heads.
Faith Matters	The purpose of this project is to compile a directory of the 100 leading mosques that provide the best access to women. Each mosque will be awarded a rating out of five stars based on criteria developed through women's focus groups. The ultimate aim is to incentivise mosques to improve their engagement with and inclusion of women in all aspects of their work through greater access to recognition and resources from the public sector.

Faith leaders

Organisation	*Project description*
Luqman Institute	Extension of the pilot Imam training programme funded in 2007-08 to develop training materials and deliver courses to 20 senior Imams over an eight month period
Psychology and Religion Research Group, University of Cambridge	Imam Training Course to equip young, newly qualified Imams to engage with British culture and humanitarian values, and to find parallel values within the Qur'an.
Demos	'Futures thinking' workshops for Muslim young people and Imams to explore the 'future' of their interaction in the mosque. The workshops will be delivered in partnership with MINAB.

Local forums against extremism and Islamophobia

Organisation	*Project description*
Gateshead Interfaith Forum	Gateshead Interfaith Forum will work closely with Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to set up a Gateshead forum against extremism and Islamophobia, which will be run as a pilot in 2008-09.
Northampton Race Equality Council	The project will establish a local forum across Northamptonshire with representation from the diversity of Muslim groups across the county.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Government plans to set up the centre of excellence to improve understanding between Muslim communities and cultural and sporting bodies referred to on page 33 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; what the centre's remit will be; how many people it will employ; what its annual budget will be in the three years from 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [245561]

Mr. Khan: The reference in The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England is to work to bring together expertise across the culture and sport sectors in one central place under the leadership of the strategic delivery bodies. It does not refer to a physical "centre of excellence". This work is being taken forward by Creative Partnerships, a sector body of the Arts Council England, and began in August 2008.

The remit of this work is to improve the general understanding nationally and locally between Muslim communities and cultural and sporting bodies, and to work with a wide range of partners to help raise understanding of how cultural and sporting opportunities can be used to build resilience to violent extremism.

Two members of staff at Creative Partnerships are currently engaged on this work.

In 2008-09 CLG provided funding of £140,000 for this work. At this present time, no future funding has been allocated.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in the development of the Continuous Professional Development Programme for Faith Leaders referred to on page 18 of the report, The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; when this will be rolled out nationally; and how this project will be funded. [245567]

Mr. Khan: The Faith Community Development qualification is now available for higher education organisations to deliver. In addition to this, we have contracted the National Institute for Adult Continual Education (NIACE) to run a second round of pilots over the 2008/09 academic year. These pilots are being run in London, Bradford, Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and Leicester and will report in spring 2009.

DIUS and CLG jointly funded the development of the qualification and CLG are funding the 2008-09 pilots.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1312W, on council tax: Wales; if she will publish details of council tax list alterations by local authority area in England in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 on the same basis, based on data held by the Valuation Office Agency. [245896]

John Healey: This information is not currently available.

Departmental Accountancy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 971W, on Departmental accountancy, to which firms the sum of £3.1 million for the provision of furniture and fittings in 2007-08 was paid. [245938]

Mr. Khan: The firms to which the sum of £3.1 million was paid were Como Interiors Ltd., Steria Ltd., and MITIE Managed Services Ltd.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government" and the accompanying document "Cross Government Actions: Mandatory Minimum Measures"; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245357]

Mr. Khan: The Department already had a senior information risk owner in place at director level. The role was upgraded to board level in March 2008 and is undertaken at director general level.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of running her Department's Cohesion Directorate is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two years; and what the costs are expected to be for the (i) Cohesion and Faiths Preventing Violent Extremism, Race Equality and Diversity divisions and (ii) Gypsy and Traveller unit. [245526]

Mr. Khan: The administrative budget for the Cohesion Directorate is £5,043,606 in 2008-09.

The administrative budget for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are yet to be agreed.

The administrative budget for the Cohesion and Faiths and Preventing Violent Extremism divisions is expected to be £4,093,607 in 2008-09. The administrative budget for the Race Equality and Diversity division (which is now a part of the Empowerment Directorate) is £1,172,415.

The administrative budget for the Gypsy and Traveller Unit (which is also now a part of the Empowerment Directorate) is £417,979 in 2008-09.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding has been agreed for each of her Department's executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. [245908]

Mr. Khan: For NDPBs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 228W. The Department currently sponsors three executive agencies, as follows:

The Fire Service College

http://www.fireservicecollege.ac.uk/

The Planning Inspectorate

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/

The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

http://www.qeiicc.co.uk/.

I refer the hon. Member to the agencies' websites via the links above. Available information on funding may be found in documents such as the agencies' corporate or business plans.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244360]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government's furniture procurement strategy is to use the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions' framework contracts. There is no mechanism within the framework to capture the country of origin of these goods or details about specific firms.

Departmental ICT

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many embedded communicators have been installed in her Department's information and communications systems. [246372]

Mr. Khan: The hon. Member may wish to refer to The White Book, published by COI. This is available in the Library of the House and contains a listing for members of the Department's Communications Directorate. The book is updated twice yearly.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff work in her Department's *(a)* Migration Directorate and *(b)* Cohesion Directorate, broken down by unit. [245527]

Mr. Khan: 81 staff work in the Department's Cohesion and Migration Directorate. The breakdown of numbers by unit is as follows:

	Staff
Director's Office	4
Cohesion Research	14
Cohesion and Faiths	19
Migration	13
Preventing Extremism	31

In addition there are twp Muslim advisers who are not civil servants.

There are also six Communities and Local Government staff in the Research, Information and Communications Unit (RICU). This is a cross-governmental strategic communications resource on counter-terrorism. It is owned jointly by Communities and Local Government, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by her Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246644]

Mr. Khan: This information is held by the Advertising Standards Authority and is in the public domain. I therefore refer the hon. Member to the ASA, and to the archive of their adjudications maintained at:

www.asa.org.uk/asa/adjudications/public

For broadcast advertising complaints prior to 2004, I refer the hon. Member to the public affairs unit at Ofcom.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expert advisers have been commissioned by her Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246662]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Contractors are not asked to declare political activity as a matter of course. Contract terms and conditions task contractors with clarifying that no conflict of interest arises in connection with the services they are to deliver under contract.

Departmental Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1326W, on departmental training, what foreign language or languages she has undertaken training in to assist her in her ministerial capacity; and how much the training has cost. [245928]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend received Spanish lessons in advance of an international ministerial conference on citizen participation in Valencia which took place in October 2007. The cost was £183.

Derelict Land

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of levels of brownfield development in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [244901]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on development on previously-developed or brownfield land is taken from the Land Use Change Statistics, which is only available for England.

In the period 2003-06:

(a) 58 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in England was previously-developed;

(b) 60 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in the North East was previously-developed;

(c) 65 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in the Tees Valley was previously-developed;

(d) 60 per cent. of the land changing to a developed use in the Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency was previously-developed.

Tees Valley is defined as the Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington local authorities.

"Brown field development" has been interpreted as all development on previously-developed land, not just residential development. Information on residential development can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Fire Services: Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Airwave handsets issued to fire and rescue services have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to fire and rescue services have been disabled by the service provider following *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakages and *(c)* other reasons in each year since the service's introduction. [246153]

Mr. Khan: In November 2008 the Firelink project commenced the main roll-out of Airwave equipment to the Fire and Rescue Service vehicle fleet. There have been no losses of Airwave handsets delivered by Firelink and no requests have been made to disable equipment.

Fire Services: Taunton

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of maintaining the regional fire control centre in Taunton was in November 2008. [246571]

Mr. Khan: The accommodation costs of the South West Regional Control Centre for November 2008 was £140,783.

The building is used for a range of purposes including the testing and development of FireControl IT systems and also technical workshops which bring together Fire and Rescue personnel. It is also used for meetings of Fire and Rescue Authority elected members who are responsible for setting up and running the new Regional Control Centres. Additionally, the Regional Project Team also works out of the South West Regional Control Centre.

Fire Services: Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters in England and Wales have been trained *(a)* at the Fire Service College and *(b)* in Texas in the last 36 months. [245981]

Mr. Khan: The Fire Service College has trained 17,477 firefighters in England and Wales in the last 36 months.

We do not hold centrally the information on the number of firefighters trained in Texas.

Flood Control

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which recommendations of the Pitt Review *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have implemented. [245996]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' statement of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1098-1100. A copy of the full Government response has been placed in the Library of the House which sets out a detailed implementation plan.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average difference was between the estimated value of houses on which mortgages have been defaulted and the re-sale price of such houses following repossession in the last 12 months. [244948]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not collect or hold such data.

Institute of Community Cohesion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff the Institute of Community Cohesion employs; and what funding her Department will provide to the Institute in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two years. [245330]

Mr. Khan: The Institute of Community Cohesion is independent of Government and Communities and Local Government is not responsible for its staffing. Therefore, I am not in a position to comment on the Institute's staffing levels.

In line with its policy objectives on cohesion, in 2008-09 Communities and Local Government has provided the Institute with £223,000 of funding for a range of work aimed at helping local partners build more cohesive and integrated communities.

At present the Department does not have any firm plans to commission work from the Institute in future years.

Islam and Citizenship Education Project

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of the Islam and Citizenship Education project will be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* the two following years; how many staff the project employs; and if she will make a statement. [245338]

Mr. Khan: The Islam and Citizenship Education project is jointly funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The total costs of the project are as follows:

	£
2007-08	49,850
2008-09	156,977
2009-10	63,700
2010-11	0

The School Development Support Agency lead this project and they employ a total of three members of staff.

Local Government Association: Manpower

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff the Local Government Association employs; and how many of these work on issues relating to cohesion and integration. [245523]

Mr. Khan: I do not hold the information on the number of staff the Local Government Association employs as it is a voluntary lobbying organisation acting on behalf of its members, not a government funded organisation.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have not met the 10 day invoice payment target to small and medium-sized enterprises. [246104]

John Healey: In the pre-Budget report, in order to help businesses manage their cash flow, the Government announced that it will aim to pay its suppliers as soon as possible and within 10 days. This commitment has been adopted by a number of local authorities.

However, there is no formal local government target on 10-day payments and we do not collect or maintain central records on this.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of commission structures on the quality of investment advice to local authorities, with particular reference to advice to local authorities on investment in Icelandic banks. [246010]

John Healey: Financial advisers are regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and it is for the FSA to determine whether or not any particular firm is meeting its regulatory obligations. Local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions and guidance issued by Communities and Local Government requires them to produce an annual investment strategy which is approved by the full council.

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1152-53W, on the Communities in Control White Paper, what steps her Department is taking to implement the proposals on voting incentives. [245940]

Mr. Khan: We plan to publish a draft Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in the spring which will include provisions on voting incentives.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether retention of the status quo is a possible option for the future structure of local government in Suffolk and Norfolk. [246691]

John Healey: Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 it is open to the Secretary of State to decide to take no action in relation to the unitary proposals submitted to her by Ipswich borough council and Norwich city council or any alternative unitary proposals made to her by the Boundary Committee in response to her request for advice of 6 February 2008.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to include the status quo as an option in consultation on the future structure of Suffolk and Norfolk local government. [246692]

John Healey: Before making any decisions on any alternative unitary proposals in Norfolk and Suffolk made to her by the Boundary Committee in response to her request for advice of 6 February 2008, the Secretary of State will consider all representations received during the statutory four week period, beginning with the date—13 February 2009—by which she has requested the Committee to provide that advice.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy that local referendums be held in Suffolk and Norfolk on the reorganisation of local government; and if she will include the option of retaining the status quo in the referendum. [246693]

John Healey: We have no plans for local referendums on any proposals for unitary local government in Norfolk or Suffolk.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what exemptions from business rates have been applied to properties damaged by the Buncefield oil storage depot explosion. [245990]

John Healey: Following the Buncefield oil storage depot explosion, 94 properties were removed from the ratings list as a result of not being capable of beneficial occupation as a result of the Buncefield explosion, and 22 had their rateable value reduced by the Valuation Officer, resulting in these properties either not being liable for rates or having a reduced liability respectively.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for *(a)* collection and *(b)* enforcement of business rates levied on ports. [246009]

John Healey: It is the task of the local billing authority to bill for rates, collect rates, and enforce payment in accordance with the relevant regulations.

I have announced that we are amending the regulations on collection and enforcement to allow back-dated rate charges to be paid over a number of years in certain circumstances, rather than being due when the bill is issued as at present.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by her Department to local authorities on the take-up of small business rate relief. [246047]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Observatories

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address of each regional observatory is; and whether these bodies are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [246042]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The name and address of each regional observatory; and whether these bodies are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act 2000) is set out as follows:

Observatory

Region	*Name*	*Address*	*Whether classified as public authorities for the purposes of the FOI Act 2000*
East of England	The East of England Observatory	The Business Centre, Station Road, Histon, CB4 9LQ	The East of England Observatory is part of the East of England Regional Development Agency, which is a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.

Observatory

Region	*Name*	*Address*	*Whether classified as public authorities for the purposes of the FOI Act 2000*
East Midlands	Intelligence East Midlands	Regeneration East Midlands, Unit 8, Provident Works, Newdigate Street, Nottingham, NG7 4FD	Intelligence East Midlands is part of Regeneration East Midlands, which is the regional centre of excellence for sustainable communities in the East Midlands. Regeneration East Midlands is a Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered Charity and does not have public authority status for the purposes of the FOI Act.
London	There is no formally constituted Greater London Regional Observatory. However, various organisations combine to fulfil similar functions. Discussions are under way which will seek to establish a single website linking appropriate material, and may in addition result in the establishment of a formal Regional Observatory.		
North East	North East Regional Information Partnership (NERIP)	Stella House, Goldcrest Way, Newburn Riverside, NE15 8NY	NERIP is part of One North East Regional Development Agency, which is a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.
North West	North West Regional Intelligence Unit	North West Development Agency, Renaissance House, PO Box 37, Centre Park, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 1XB	North West Regional Intelligence Unit is part of the North West Regional Development Agency, which is a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.
South East	South East England Intelligence Network (SEE-IN)	Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1YA	SEE-IN is part of South East of England Regional Development Agency, which is a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.
South West	South West Regional Observatory—Core Unit	East Reach House, East Reach, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3EN	The Observatory is not classified as a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.
West Midlands	West Midlands Regional Observatory	West Midlands Regional Observatory, Level L1, Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG	The West Midlands Regional Observatory is part of the Regional Development Agency, Advantage West Midlands, and is a public authority for FOI purposes.
Yorkshire and Humber	Yorkshire Futures	2 Victoria Place, Leeds, LS11 5AE	Yorkshire Futures is a part of Yorkshire Forward, which is a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act.

Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund will distribute in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11, broken down by (i) community capacity building, (ii) supporting young people, (iii) supporting women, (iv) building the capacity of faith leaders and (v) supporting local forums against Islamophobia. [245510]

Mr. Khan: So far, the following amounts have been allocated through the first round of the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund for 2008-09 to 2010-11:

£

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Capacity building	439,591	111,888	64,767
Supporting young people	494,943	80,000	80,000
Supporting women	135,125	29,775	0
Supporting faith leaders	205,630	0	0
Local Forums	24,725	0	0

Radical Middleway

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Radical Middleway expects to announce the next phase of its programme; how many locations Radical Middleway plans to visit in 2008-09; and what funding will be allocated to the programme in the three years from 2008-09. [245543]

Mr. Khan: The Radical Middle Way programme of events for 2008-09 began in October 2008 and will continue into April 2009. All events are announced

online at the Radical Middle Way website, which has a comprehensive archive of past events.

The Radical Middle Way organise tours across numerous cities and towns across the UK. They have already visited Hounslow, West London, Central London, Nottingham, Sheffield, Cambridge, Peterborough, Birmingham, Luton, Crawley and in the summer of 2008 High Wycombe. We are currently aware of events that are planned on being held in London, Derby, Milton Keynes, Blackburn, Greater Manchester, Bristol, High Wycombe, Slough, Stoke on Trent, Plymouth and other cities and towns across the North which have yet to be determined.

No decision has yet been made in respect of funding the Radical Middle Way in the years following from 2008-09.

Regional Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy on earned autonomy is. [246050]

Mr. Khan: Through comprehensive performance assessment, higher performing authorities are able to earn additional freedoms from Government. New local performance arrangements, through the national indicator set, local area agreements and a targeted assessment regime take this policy forward.

Rent A Room Scheme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of effects of the rent-a-room scheme in providing accommodation for people who have lost their homes; and if she will make a statement. [245276]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

There are no data available on the number of persons who have lost their homes who are benefiting from accommodation provided as a result of rent-a-room relief.

Rented Housing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the number of families for each London borough housed in *(a)* council, *(b)* housing association and *(c)* private sector tenancies allocated by local authorities; and what the equivalent figures were for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [246951]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report information for numbers of local authority owned (council) dwellings as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

Information for the number of dwellings owned by housing associations has been collected by the Tenants Service Authority (formerly the Housing Corporation), via their annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR).

Table 1 provides estimates for numbers of local authority owned dwellings in each London borough for 2007. Figures for 2008 are not yet available, but will be released on 22nd January 2009.

Table 1: Local authority stock by London district (at 1 April)

Local authority	*2007*
Barking and Dagenham	19,659
Barnet	11,074
Bexley	13
Brent	11,135
Bromley	0
Camden	23,517
City of London	429
Croydon	14,136
Ealing	13,920
Enfield	11,588
Greenwich	24,703
Hackney	23,590
Hammersmith and Fulham	13,248
Haringey	16,964
Harrow	5,091
Havering	10,967
Hillingdon	10,809
Hounslow	13,176
Islington	27,046
Kensington and Chelsea	6,995
Kingston upon Thames	4,869
Lambeth	27,788
Lewisham	26,036
Merton	6,406
Newham	17,958
Redbridge	4,790
Richmond upon Thames	83
Southwark	41,873
Sutton	7,332
Tower Hamlets	15,739
Waltham Forest	10,369
Wandsworth	17,279
Westminster	12,298
London	450,881

This information is also published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 116 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Table 2 provides estimates for numbers of housing association owned dwellings in each London borough for 2007 and 2008.

Table 2: Housing association stock by London district (at 31 March)

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
Barking and Dagenham	3,257	3,440
Barnet	6,804	6,904
Bexley	12,832	12,953
Brent	14,582	15,338
Bromley	18,349	18,513
Camden	10,818	10,715
City of London	543	549
Croydon	9,868	10,203
Ealing	9,662	9,621
Enfield	6,568	6,756
Greenwich	10,657	10,724
Hackney	21,373	21,590
Hammersmith and Fulham	12,295	12,537
Haringey	10,483	10,695
Harrow	3,619	3,640
Havering	2,327	2,509

Table 2: Housing association stock by London district (at 31 March)

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
Hillingdon	5,547	5,866
Hounslow	6,579	6,645
Islington	14,034	14,933
Kensington and Chelsea	13,322	13,365
Kingston upon Thames	2,324	2,298
Lambeth	20,229	21,174
Lewisham	10,917	16,437
Merton	4,725	4,821
Newham	11,677	11,908
Redbridge	4,597	4,525
Richmond upon Thames	9,713	9,790
Southwark	14,357	14,617
Sutton	3,688	4,179
Tower Hamlets	23,903	26,682
Waltham Forest	10,645	10,692
Wandsworth	9,890	10,056
Westminster	15,720	15,821
London	335,895	350,596

Notes:
Includes general needs social housing, supported housing and housing for older people

Information for households housed in private sector tenancies allocated by local authorities is not collected centrally.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines her Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245711]

Mr. Khan: The Department follows COI Informability advice that the use of red and green together as text/background should be avoided. This includes the use of tints and solid blocks of colour.

As an additional accessibility measure, the Department's website provides Word format files for all new publications and signposts the availability of alternative formats on request.

Small Area Data Programme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* remit of her Department's Small Area Data programme is. [245980]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government supports the development and use of a wide range of small area data. Its purpose is principally to provide better information at a neighbourhood level to help tackle deprivation, identify priorities at a neighbourhood level and promote better service delivery and performance management.

The Social Exclusion Unit's report 'Policy Action Team 18: Better Information' (2000)

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/social_exclusion_task_force/assets/publications_1997_to_2006/pat_report_18.pdf

recognised the critical role of access to statistics for small areas in order for local service providers to better understand the nature and patterns of deprivation in neighbourhoods.

Between 2001 and 2006 the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit within this department (and formerly the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister) worked collaboratively with the Office for National Statistics (and in co-operation with other Departments) on the development of Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NeSS) to meet the requirements of PAT 18. The NeSS programme evaluation can be found at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=aboutneighbourhood/reportsandpolicies/ness-reports-policy-docs.htm.

CLG continues to work with closely with ONS and across Government to support the development of small area data relating to deprivation and regeneration.

The current remit of CLG's small area data programme covers socioeconomic statistics across Government relating to deprivation, regeneration and renewal. CLG's focus continues to be on enabling local and regional regeneration professionals to improve their strategic planning, monitor progress and target interventions on their most deprived neighbourhoods in support of the Regeneration Framework. The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/transformingplaces

This includes supporting the local management of data and the development of local information systems

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/localinformationsystems

Better availability of small area data helps local strategic partnerships monitor, performance manage and deliver against their local area agreements.

CLG also has direct responsibility for the development and production of small area statistics relating to deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Social Housing (National Register of Social Housing

http://www.tenantservicesauthority.org/server.php?show=nav.13461

and Fires (Fire and Rescue Service Incidents published on NeSS).

Social Rented Housing: Evictions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many care leavers were evicted from social housing in 2007 as a result of rent arrears. [245275]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

South East Plan

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to publish the final version of the South East Plan by the end of 2008. [245994]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1140W. This stated that the Secretary of State expects to publish the south east's regional spatial strategy in the spring of 2009.

Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the North West Regional Assembly spent on producing its digital versatile disc entitled Gypsy and Travelling Show People. [246369]

Mr. Khan: The "Somewhere to Live" DVD was commissioned to support the on-going Partial Review of Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which is focussing on a number of topics including Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Provision and Travelling Showpeople Plot Provision. 4NW, formerly known as the North West Regional Assembly, spent £6,513.10 on the production of this DVD.

Young Muslim Advisory Group

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remit of the Young Muslim Advisory Group is; what the criteria will be for selecting its members; what she expects its running costs to be; what funds have been allocated to the group for the three years from 2008-09; and if she will make a statement. [245539]

Mr. Khan: The members of the Young Muslims Advisory Group (YMAG) were announced on 7 October 2008 following a public recruitment process involving a written application, and attendance at a residential seminar.

The remit of the Young Muslims Advisory Group, as set out in the recruitment advertisement is:

To facilitate an ongoing and meaningful dialogue between Government and young people on the experience of being a young Muslim in England and the opportunity to influence government strategy and policy on issues that affect them.

To explore the causes and impact of violent extremism and underlying causes of disaffection (including anti-terror legislation, stop and search, identity issues, foreign policy, Islamaphobia, discrimination, etc.) on Muslim young people and Muslim communities.

To support and encourage young people to be active in their communities in order to tackle disaffection, increase civic engagement and respond to concerns felt by other young people.

To support young people to develop confidence and skills and in making appropriate contributions to the development of their communities.

The criteria for selecting the YMAG's final 22 members are set out as follows:

Communication skills

Articulates clearly and concisely

Able to debate, persuade and question

Looks at issues from someone else's perspective

Respects and is tolerant of other opinion.

Teamwork skills

Ability to participate and contribute to a team

Ability to exchange ideas and offer solutions

Ability to encourage and support other team members

Appreciates diversity and differences among team members.

General skills

Knowledge/understanding of Muslim and wider affairs (such as current/political/social/health)

Demonstrates a desire to make a difference

An ability to motivate others and to take a positive role in the community

Creativity and drive to take forward new ideas.

The management of the YMAG was awarded to the Office for Public Management through an open tender process. The value of this contract is £250,000 for the two years from September 2008.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Children

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of UK aid to Afghanistan is intended to assist children in 2008-09; what steps his Department is taking to deal with unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan, with particular reference to the protection of children; and if he will make a statement. [246541]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) will spend £60 million through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This provides finance, among other things, for teachers' salaries directly benefiting the 6 million children now in school and health services and support to the health sector (specifically training) which reduces infant mortality.

DFID currently funds and has made a further five year commitment of up to £10 million to the HALO Trust's demining programmes in Afghanistan. The purpose of these programmes is to return high-priority mined land and suspected hazardous areas to productive use, and to providing children with safe areas to work and play.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist the Afghan government to uphold its commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; and if he will make a statement. [246545]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) works in partnership with the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) to ensure the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is upheld. This policy is incorporated into DFID's state-building, growth and livelihoods programmes.

DFID's contribution to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) of £60 million (2008-09) is supporting Afghan children realise their right to education. The ARTF contributes to the salaries of over 100,000 teachers and six million students are now enrolled in school. In 2001 this figure stood at one million, very few of whom were girls, who were denied education under the Taliban.

In 2008 DFID contributed £11 million to the World Food programme to support the provision of wheat to 425,000 households over the winter period, ensuring fewer Afghan children are in danger of sliding further into poverty and malnutrition.

The UK, in partnership with the Afghan Government and international community, is committed to providing a safe and secure environment in which children can freely access schools, clinics and public spaces.

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what systems are in place to co-ordinate all international aid efforts in Afghanistan. [246711]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) is mandated with coordinating the international development effort behind the Government of Afghanistan's (GoA) National Development Strategy (ANDS). The ANDS offers renewed opportunity to align and coordinate aid behind GoA priorities. DFID is supporting its implementation with a £2.7 million (2006-09) programme of assistance to support UNAMA and establish a coordination monitoring board.

In the long term, building capacity and using government systems is the most effective way for the GoA to coordinate funding with national priorities and to ensure value for money. DFID is therefore committed to spending at least 50 per cent. of our annual budget through government channels.

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department takes to ensure that aid to Afghanistan *(a)* is used to strengthen local and national civil society and the Afghan government and *(b)* reaches those most in need, particularly children; what steps his Department takes to ensure that bodies in Afghanistan receiving aid are held accountable for where the aid goes; and if he will make a statement. [246542]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development is providing £4.5 million over the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 to the Governance and Transparency Fund to strengthen national civil society in Afghanistan. This is providing assistance—delivered through several international NGOs (including Cranfield University, Relief International and Making Integrity Work) working with a wide range of local partners including the Afghan Civil Society Forum, Integrity Watch Afghanistan, the Afghan Institute for Management Training and Enhancement of Indigenous Capacities, the Killid Group.

Delivery of aid through Government of Afghanistan (GoA) channels is the most effective way to build state capacity, ensure value for money, and co-ordinate funding with national priorities. At local level, the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) supports the creation of Community Development Councils (CDCs), which decide, on behalf of their village or community, what is most needed in their area. So far over 21,700 Community Development Councils have been established across Afghanistan with over 45,200 projects under way or completed. NSP is being implemented across the country by 28 local and international NGOs and by UN Habitat.

In addition we are providing £1.5 million in core funding for the Afghanistan Evaluation and Research Unit (AREU), an independent policy research organisation which has a programme of work aimed at measuring the effectiveness of international donor assistance (including that provided by the UK).

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to protect *(a)* Afghani people, *(b)* vulnerable populations in Afghanistan and *(c)* children in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [246543]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Strengthened, transparent and accountable policing and justice systems are critical to protect Afghanistan's population from insecurity and criminality. The UK is working with the US and EU to reform the Afghan police and funding a bilateral mentoring programme in Helmand province. The UK provides over 50 experts for this purpose. We are working with the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) to strengthen both the formal justice sector (through the GoA's National Justice Programme) and the informal justice system. Improving people's access to justice and dispute resolution is a critical aspect of this work, through legal aid and training in legal and rights awareness. The UK's justice adviser in Helmand has for example established a Women and Children's Justice Group, helping vulnerable groups to have their rights better protected.

Food insecurity in Afghanistan has been particularly acute in 2008-09 due to drought and to global food price increases. Around 4.5 million people are currently vulnerable to food scarcity with women, children, and the poorest disproportionately affected. In 2008 DFID provided the World Food Programme (WFP) with £11 million to respond to the food crisis. WFP deliver food on the basis of a Food Vulnerability Assessment which ranks districts in terms of food vulnerability and informs delivery priorities accordingly.

Additional suffering is caused by mines and explosive remnants of war: it is estimated that 728 km^2 still requires some form of clearance and over 4 million Afghans live in mine-affected areas. DFID funds the HALO trust (an expected £4.6 million in 2008-09) to undertake a demining programme, in order to return hazardous areas to productive use and reduce the threat to the population.

DFID Afghanistan has developed a Gender Equality Action Plan to drive awareness and focus on gender issues within our development programme. The plan covers gender-disaggregated results monitoring, explicitly mapping staff and programme resources against gender objectives, and an internal skills development programme. A significant portion of our effort will be focused on building partnerships within the GoA and with other donors—particularly multilateral institutions—to increase their contribution to addressing gender inequality. DFID will lobby UNDP, the World Bank, and the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen their approaches to gender issues.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many non-governmental organisations are contracted by the Government to work in Helmand province; and what projects they are undertaking. [246710]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: There are five major non-governmental organisations (NGOs) implementing projects in Helmand with Department for International Development (DFID) funding. Their work in Helmand includes agricultural development with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; microfinance;

community development; and work on procuring goods locally for the international community. In addition, the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team works with several local non-governmental organisations to deliver stabilisation projects across Helmand.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with how many faith-based organisations his Department has contracts to provide public services. [244838]

Mr. Michael Foster: In making contracts for the provision of public services, my Department only selects organisations that meet the proper criteria and have the most relevant expertise and experience to offer. The extent to which such organisations are faith-based is not evident in every case. An accurate total or comprehensive list could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243716]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent £374,302 on advertising in the last 12 months.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243569]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Prime Minister publishes on an annual basis, a list of the numbers and cost of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-101WS and information for 2008-09 will be published later this year.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243735]

Mr. Michael Foster: No official funds have been spent on department-wide Christmas parties in the last three years.

It is not possible to provide expenditure on staff entertainment in the last three years without incurring disproportionate costs.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value has been of Government aid to Eritrea in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; through which relief agencies the funding has been channelled; and to what projects it has been allocated. [243937]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral budget for Eritrea in 2008-09 is £2.1 million. £2 million of this is for UNICEF's water and sanitation programme, the remainder for Oxfam's water and sanitation project in Debub. In the event of an humanitarian crisis we would consider making further funds available.

Details on DFID bilateral expenditure in Eritrea in 2006-07 and 2007-08 are in the following table.

DFID bilateral expenditure in Eritrea, 2006-07 to 2008-09

£000

Project title	*Channel of delivery*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
ICRC 2008 Appeal	British Red Cross	—	1,500
UNHCR2007	Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees	—	600
UNICEF Nutrition 2007	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	—	500
DIA/ICCO Supplementary Food II	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation	286	481
UNICEF: Health 2007/08	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	—	330
WHO Health 2007	World Health Organisation	—	200
Watsan Consultant	HR Wallingford Ltd	11	—
IRC Health Debub	International Rescue	452	—
UNICEF Watsan 2006	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	500	—
Oxfam Debub Water	OXFAM	18	—
UNICEF Health Nutrition	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1,000	—
OCHA Co-ordination and support	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	223	—
2007 Eritrea Appeal	British Red Cross	1,000	—

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of nominating a British candidate for the position of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. [242362]

Mr. Thomas: The UK works to promote merit-based, transparent senior level appointments across the international system, supporting well-qualified UK and non-UK candidates. In deciding whether to lobby for a UK candidate for a particular post the Government take a view of the mandate of the organisation, the quality of the process, the likely field and our other priorities across the multilateral system.

Over the last year we have worked successfully with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and its membership to promote greater transparency in the election for its next president. Presidency candidates at IFAD must be nominated by their Government and, if they are to stand a serious chance of success, strongly supported by their Government in their campaign. Credible candidates have been emerging for the IFAD presidency and we did not nominate a UK candidate on this occasion.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to reply to the letters of 21 October and 1 December from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean on mine harvesting in Cambodia. [246572]

Mr. Michael Foster: A response to the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean's letter of 21 October was issued on 27 October.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244016]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) was pleased to read the Foresight report and will be considering it with a view to taking up any relevant findings.

Part of that process will involve an assessment of what the report might mean for DFID policy and I will report on this in due course.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role the Government has played in the training of the police force in Somalia; what funding has been provided from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [243947]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK, together with other European donors, has provided support to the United Nations Development Programme's Rule of Law and Security (ROLS) programme, which was designed to help improve safety and security for people in Somalia and promote better access to justice. The UK's support to the UNDP Rule of Law and Security Programme finished as scheduled in August 2008.

The Department for International Development (DFID) committed $3,872,108 (£2,590,827) between January and July 2008 to the law enforcement part of the ROLS programme. This has included support for civilian Police Advisory Committees in Mogadishu, the refurbishment of a police training centre in Somaliland and the training of police station commanders. It also includes the training of police, including in human rights issues, in training centres reconstructed by the international community. Police training is one aspect of the wider programme and DFID does not specify a level of expenditure for this activity.

Stabilisation Unit

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people are employed in his Department's Stabilisation Unit *(a)* centrally, *(b)* in each theatre of operation and *(c)* to deal with each theatre; how many have been drawn from each contributing Department; what the annual running costs of the unit are; how much the unit has spent in each theatre in which it operates in the last 12 months; and what plans there are to audit its (i) performance and (ii) efficiency. [244005]

Mr. Michael Foster: The breakdown of staff by Department and theatre is shown in the following table.

The running costs of the unit in the current financial year are £3.6 million. Total programme spend in 2008-09 is estimated at £5.4 million and spent as follows: £1.8 million in Afghanistan, £2.0 million in Sudan, £0.3 million in Iraq, £1.3 million on building future capability, £1 million in Georgia.

The stabilisation unit is subject to the Department for International Development's (DFID) audit arrangements. This includes external financial and value for money audit by the National Audit Office and periodic internal review by DFID's Internal Audit Department (IAD).

Department source	*Number of staff*	*Of which in London*	*In theatre*
DFID	15	13	1 (Afghanistan) 1 (Iraq)
MOD	7	6	1 (Afghanistan)
Serving Military	3	3	
FCO	2	2	
HMT	1	1	
Cabinet Office	1	1	
BERR	1	0	1 (Sudan)
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1	0	1 (Afghanistan)
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	1	1	
Under recruitment	3	3	
Total	35	30	5

In addition, the Unit currently has 25 civilian experts overseas on fixed-term consultancy contracts longer than three months—17 in Afghanistan, four in Sudan, two in Iraq and two elsewhere in Africa.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to alleviate the water shortage in Harare; and if he will make a statement. [243674]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has delivered £3 million altogether to UNICEF to support the distribution of safe, potable water to cholera affected areas in Zimbabwe. UNICEF leads a cluster of over 25 partners working together to ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene in the poorest areas of the country are addressed. The high density areas of Harare are among those worst affected by the cholera epidemic. Since October 2008, UNICEF and its partners have been trucking in safe water, digging boreholes, installing mechanised pumps and treating wells. These actions have helped to increase the availability of clean water in these areas.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to alleviate the effects of the cholera outbreak in Harare. [243675]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate. The cholera epidemic is the biggest in Zimbabwe's history. The United Nations (UN) is predicting that as many as 60,000 could be affected in the coming weeks. The Department for International Development (DFID) is funding a £10 million package to help fight the cholera outbreak and support life-saving health services, including in the worst affected areas such as Harare.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent by *(a)* her Office and *(b)* each body for which she has responsibility on advertising in the last 12 months. [243727]

Tessa Jowell: In the period from 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008, the amounts spent on advertising (inclusive of VAT) were as follows:

(a) Private Office of the Minister for the Olympics—Nil

(b) Government Olympic Executive—£27,113.64

Olympic Delivery Authority—£343,906.24

Olympic Lottery Distributor—£1,345.38.

All advertising expenditure by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Olympic Lottery Distributor was for recruitment purposes, except for £2,731.16 spent by GOE to promote two regional "London 2012: Ask the Team" public question-time events.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what records her Office maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240457]

Tessa Jowell: My office keeps a log of ministerial gifts and hospitality given and received each year.

There is no departmental requirement to separately monitor expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes and therefore no mechanism for this information to be recorded.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money. This document is available on HM Treasury's website.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that the Olympic Delivery Authority accomplishes the dredging of the canal access routes to the Olympic sites. [244989]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has an agreed programme of waterways works. A wharf is currently being built on the Lee Navigation Canal adjacent to the on-site logistics centre at Bow East and a further wharf is scheduled for construction by Q2 2009 on the Waterworks River. The ODA has recently carried out successful trials in the use of two 100 tonne fully loaded barges to the wharf locations. A dredging scheme is currently being evaluated for dredging the river from Bow locks up to the Waterworks River wharf to facilitate 350 tonne barges with dredging scheduled for Q1 2009. The ODA will report progress on these works in its monthly and quarterly reports.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what alternative sources of funding for the athletes' village *(a)* she and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority is considering; and if she will make a statement. [246120][1]

Tessa Jowell: As a consequence of recent turmoil in the global financial markets, less private sector investment is available than originally envisaged, meaning that the Olympic Village deal needs to be restructured and additional public sector investment will need to be made. The details of that restructured deal are being worked through between the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and Lend Lease under the terms of an exclusivity agreement and it would not be appropriate to reveal the details until that deal is concluded in the spring of next year. Under the exclusivity agreement, the ODA may not negotiate with alternative development partners.

Olympic Games 2012: Economic Situation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the effect of the current economic situation on the 2012 London Olympics. [245871]

Tessa Jowell: The turmoil in global financial markets and the economic developments of recent months have affected the financing of the Olympic Village and International Broadcast Centre/Main Press Centre projects.

However, the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, including the Olympic Village and the International Broadcasting Centre/Main Press Centre are still on track to be delivered within the £9.325 billion public sector funding package. In addition, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has already secured over half the funding necessary to stage the games.

The substantial progress that has been made both in the delivery of the venues and infrastructure and in the raising of funds to support the staging of the games means that, while recognising the risks, we remain in a good position to manage delivery on time and on budget.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games have presented their requirements for the venue of the Olympic shooting events in respect of *(a)* ranges and facilities, *(b)* security, *(c)* costs, *(d)* transport facilities, *(e)* accommodation and *(f)* legacy to the authorities at Bisley shooting ground; and if she will make a statement. [245802]

1. *[Official Report, 3 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 8MC.]*

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) together with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) met British Shooting on 9 December to discuss the use of Bisley for the shooting competition at the London 2012 games. They discussed a wide-range of issues including facility requirements, the legacy benefit, safety and security issues, transport and accommodation provision, and whether the venue can be delivered efficiently and cost-effectively. The ODA has subsequently written to British Shooting requesting further clarity on a number of issues. This work on the shooting venue is ongoing and final decisions are yet to be made by the Olympic Board.

Olympic Games 2012: Lend Lease

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the Answer of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 3W, for what reasons exclusivity has been granted to Lend Lease; and if she will make a statement. [243762]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Lend Lease were appointed after a competitive tender process under the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and remain a committed partner in the delivery of the Olympic Village. The exclusivity agreement has been granted in order to finalise funding arrangements and legal documentation.

Olympic Games 2012: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the legacy to the North East from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [245858]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 342W.

In addition, nine of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) suppliers are businesses registered in the North East. Over 700 businesses from the region have registered on CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service for buyers and suppliers. In February 2009, One North East (the Regional Development Agency) will host the ODA at a 'Meet the Buyer event' at Newcastle Racecourse where a range of business support activity with be available and 2012 opportunities will be promoted to around 2,000 business organisations.

I am also delighted to say there are a number of projects in the North East that have been awarded the London 2012 Inspire Mark (the non-commercial 2012 brand available for exciting new cultural projects inspired by the Games). So far this includes:

Creative Arts, by Tyne and Wear Museums;

Dance City Afro Reggae, by Dance City;

Seconds Out, by Theatre Royal Newcastle and Darlington Council;

Border Crossing by ISIS Arts;

Juice, Newcastle Gateshead's Children and Young People's Festival, by Culture 10;

People's Record and Literature and Stories by MLA.

The Personal Best programme uses Games-inspired volunteering to help people to develop their skills for work. Building on the success of London, the North East will be one of the first regions to benefit by introducing this programme.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps are being taken to ensure that *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency are able to meet the goals and objectives set for the London 2012 Olympics. [245860]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) are working hard to ensure the benefits of 2012 reach across the UK and have established a Nations and Regions Group (NRG) to oversee this work. The North East representative is Peter Rowley, Chair of the Regional Sports Board.

At a regional level, all London 2012 games-related activity is led by One NorthEast (the regional development agency) and Sport England North East and includes a structure involving partners from across the public, voluntary and private sectors. These arrangements provide the groundwork for delivering a strong legacy in the North East and will ensure that the region contributes to the overall UK-wide legacy ambitions of 2012. Through the effective delivery of the Legacy Action Plan, we aim to maximise the social, economic and cultural opportunities across the UK.

We are already seeing great progress in a lot of these areas, for example, the North East has put in place a project called Beating Type 2 Diabetes. This project is active in Middlesbrough and aims to show how increased physical activity can help prevent type 2 diabetes. It uses 2012 as a key driver for behavioural change.

Additionally, there are also a number of groups in the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland region who work in partnership with Sport England to promote the wider benefits of the London 2012 games. This includes Tees Valley Olympic and Paralympic Games Working Group which has identified a draft action plan of activities that it intends to carry out between now and 2012. It is organising an events-based programme which aims to use the Olympics and Paralympics to encourage involvement in sport and identify talented performers. The group is also utilising Sport England funding to match strong performers with talented coaches to enable them to fulfil their potential.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Crime

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to *(a)* collate and *(b)* publish as a separate category statistics on offences committed with airsoft guns. [243421]

Jacqui Smith: Statistics for crimes involving BB guns/soft air weapons have been collected separately since April 2004 and were published for the first time in January 2006.

Latest data relate to 2006-07 and are available in table 2.03 of 'Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2006-07' (HOSB 03/08), which is at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0308.pdf.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many retailers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for the persistent sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years in each of the last five years. [244844]

Jacqui Smith: I refer the hon. and learned Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 504W.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress her Department has made in the replacement of animals in scientific procedures; what effect Government action to promote such replacement had on numbers of animals used in scientific procedures in the most recent year for which figures are available; what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the scientific community about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [245068]

Meg Hillier: The Government strongly support the development and use of non-animal alternatives where possible, use of animals in scientific procedures will not be licensed if alternative non-animal techniques are available. The National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs), which the Home Office part-funds, was established in May 2004 and acts as a focal point for research into the 3Rs. We have ongoing discussions with the NC3Rs.

The Government also continue to support the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), with a member of Home Office staff serving on the ESAC Scientific Advisory Committee, and through contributions to the European Union. It is ECVAM's task to monitor and co-ordinate research into alternatives and to develop the processes of validation—that is, the assessment of alternative methods to see whether they are reliable and whether they produce a level of information similar to the animal based tests they are to replace.

In addition the Home Office has established an inter-departmental group on the 3Rs to ensure other UK regulatory bodies take account of the progress with the 3Rs in their policies and practices. Home Office staff made a range of presentations on humane experimental technique at the 6th World Congress on Alternatives to Animal research in 2007. Reference is made to other relevant Home Office presentations in the 2007 Annual Report of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate.

The impact of progress on the uptake of suitable reduction and replacement alternatives can be seen in a number of classes of animal use reported in the Annual Statistical report series: for example reductions in numbers of rabbits used for pyrogen testing, the numbers of guinea pigs used for skin sensitisation testing, and the number of animals used for skin irritation studies.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of whether the threshold of moderate pain in animal experimentation is being adhered to; how her Department defines moderate pain in relation to animal experimentation; what representations she has received since January 2008 about that definition; and if she will make a statement. [245071]

Meg Hillier: The assessment of whether the threshold of moderate pain in animal experimentation is being adhered to is mainly through the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate's inspection programme and a selection of reports and published work.

The severity limits of protocols are defined in Section 5.42 of the Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Moderate protocols are defined as:

"Protocols regarded as moderate include toxicity tests (which do not involve lethal endpoints) and many surgical procedures (provided that suffering is controlled and minimised by effective post-operative analgesia and care).

Protocols that have the potential to cause greater suffering but include controls which minimise severity, or terminate the protocol before the animal shows more than moderate adverse effects, may also be classed within the moderate severity limit".

We have received no formal representations on this issue since January 2008. Judicial Review proceedings in July 2007 considered four issues relating to the implementation of the 1986 Act one of which was on the severity limits for protocols. It was argued that in certain projects the severity limits should have been set at substantial rather than moderate. In its judgment issued on 23 April 2008, the Court of Appeal overturned the High Court's earlier finding that the former Chief Inspector had erred in law in assessing severity limits in the relevant project licence. On this point, the Court found that neither the former Chief Inspector nor the Secretary of State had adopted an erroneous approach to the published Guidance on the Operation of the 1986 Act regarding the assessment of severity limits.

Furthermore, the Court of Appeal, in upholding our appeal, agreed that the severity limit is determined by the degree of suffering experienced by the animal prior to the point at which it is humanely killed.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to reduce the number of animals used in scientific procedures; what recent representations she has received about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [245072]

Meg Hillier: Many factors influence trends in the use of animals under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, including the economic climate, global trends in scientific endeavour and strategic decisions by funding bodies. The increase in the use of genetically altered strains seen over recent years has also had an impact as advances in genetics open up new and promising avenues of medical research.

The licensing system under the 1986 Act is demand-led and we have no control over the number of project licence applications we receive. The Act limits such animal use to where there is a clear benefit to people, animals or the environment when there is no means of obtaining these benefits without animal use, or at a lesser animal welfare cost. All scientists and researchers undertaking animal research in the UK are required to

take into account the '3Rs' (measures to replace, reduce, and refine animal use) when devising their programmes of research proposals.

In 2004 the Government established the National Centre for the 3Rs to provide a focal point and resources for such activities. The NC3Rs, which is part funded by the Home Office, drives advances in the 3Rs by taking a robust scientific approach, and bringing together expertise from a diverse range of areas, including academia, industry, Government and regulatory bodies.

There have been no recent formal representations about this issue.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the Animals (Scientific Purposes) Act 1986; and if she will make a statement. [245074]

Meg Hillier: We have not received any recent formal representations on the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she (i) has issued in the last 12 months and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Purposes) Act 1986; and if she will make a statement. [245075]

Meg Hillier: During the past 12 months we have issued no statutory instruments, departmental circulars or other documents consequential on the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Purposes) Act 1986 and currently have no plans to issue any in the next 12 months.

During 2008 we have issued a total of 10 PCD circulars and ASPD newsletters to stakeholders on a range of topical issues and these are also published on our website.

Animal Experiments: EC Law

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on EC Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes; what recent representations she has received on this Directive; if she will publish copies of the representations she has received, together with her replies; and if she will make a statement. [245067]

Meg Hillier: The requirements of European Union directive 86/609/EEC are implemented in United Kingdom law through the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. The 1986 Act puts into effect, and in some ways exceeds, the requirements of directive 86/609/EEC and of Council of Europe Convention ETS 123.

I have received no recent formal representation.

A proposal for the revision of directive 86/609 has now been published and pending a formal public consultation to inform the Government's negotiating position my officials are undertaking a range of meetings with stakeholders including other Government Departments, users, funding bodies; and those with a special interest in alternatives, animal welfare and animal protection.

The UK Government supports the Commission's aims to harmonise the regulation of the use of animals for experimental and other scientific purposes across the European Union. In particular we support elements of the proposal that will promote high European animal welfare standards, and the development and use of alternative methods.

We believe that it is essential the regulation properly balances the protection of animals and the legitimate needs of science, industry and society, ensuring high quality scientific outputs while maintaining public confidence that animals do not suffer unnecessarily.

We will not support any unnecessary or disproportionate increase in the regulatory burden that would not further those objectives, or would damage the success, sustainability or competitiveness of the UK science base.

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications there were for licences for animal experimentation in each year since 1997; how many licences were granted in each such year; and how many applications were rejected. [245066]

Meg Hillier: From the retained records available to us, full details for licences applied for and granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are only available from 2003 and these and the current year to date are shown in the following tables.

A feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. When serious deficiencies are discovered with the proposals during these early discussions with the local inspectors, this means that proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Furthermore, it is commonly the case that the authorities ultimately granted are not as originally set out by the applicants.

Project licences

Year project licence applied for	*Number of licences applied for*	*Number granted in*						*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
		2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 to date*		
2003	n/a	774	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/?	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	575	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	492	x	x	386	88	4	1	13	0
2006	586	x	x	x	430	135	0	21	0

Project licences

Number granted in

Year project licence applied for	*Number of licences applied for*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 to date*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
2007	599	x	x	x	x	450	109	32	0
2008 to date	718	x	x	x	x	x	563	155	0

Personal licences

Number granted in

	Number of licences applied for	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 to date*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
2003	n/a	2,273	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	2,156	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	1,784	x	x	1,567	204	5	3	5	0
2006	2,270	x	x	x	1,968	282	6	14	0
2007	2,903	x	x	x	x	2,367	269	29	0
2008 to date	2,638	x	x	x	x	x	2,458	180	0

Certificates of designation

Number granted in

	Number of licences applied for	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008 to date*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
2003	n/a	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2004	n/a	x	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005	5	x	x	4	—	—	—	1	—
2006	2	x	x	x	2	—	—	—	—
2007	2	x	x	x	x	2	—	0	0
2008 to date	2	x	x	x	x	x	2	0	0

n/a = Not available.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* approved and *(b)* inspected a breeding centre operated by Vanny Bio-Research at Prek Eng in Cambodia as an overseas primate supply and breeding facility to export primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research; and what recent representations she has received on breeding of long-tailed macaques for research in Cambodia, with particular reference to the Vanny Bio-Research Centre. [246174]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office has no remit to approve or accredit overseas primate breeding centres. However, the use of any non-human primate under the authority of project licences issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 from an overseas source requires prior approval which is given only if the conditions at the breeding centre are acceptable to the Home Office at that time. The Home Office has not visited any primate supply and breeding facility in Cambodia.

We have received no formal representations on breeding of long-tailed macaques for research in Cambodia, with particular reference to the Vanny Bio-Research Centre. In my reply to your question of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 857W, I advised you that we had previously considered the suitability of a laboratory primate breeding centre in Cambodia, and are reviewing its potential suitability in the light of additional documentation recently received. No approval for requests for the import of non-human primates will be considered until the centre in Cambodia has been visited by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have *(a)* been issued and *(b)* been breached in each of the last five years. [243324]

Jacqui Smith: Data on the number of antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued and breached in England and Wales are available up 31 December 2006. The available published information is shown in the following table.

Number of Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) issued and the number proven in court to have been breached at least once at all courts in England and Wales in each year, 2000[1]-06

England and Wales	*2000-02[2]*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Issued	914	1,349	3,479	4,123	2,706
Breached[2]	317	565	1,410	2,163	1,801

[1] From 1 June 2000.

[2] ASBOs breached are counted based on the year the first breach was proven in court.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service. Prepared by OCJR Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in (i) Southampton, (ii) Test Valley Borough and (iii) the ceremonial county of Hampshire in (A) 2006, (B) 2007 and (C) 2008. [243916]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of ASBOs issued at all courts in the Hampshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area in 2006 was 66 and number proven in court to have been breached in 2006 was 67. ASBOs became available from April 1999, the majority of the 67 ASBOs which were breached in 2006 will have been issued prior to 2006.

Centrally collected data on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and the number proven in court to have been breached are available up to 31 December 2006 and are not compiled below CJS area level.

Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

Mr. Raffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many acceptable behaviour contracts have been issued to young people found drinking and behaving anti-socially in public in each of the last five years. [244191]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

Acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys carried out by the Home Office of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicated that over 30,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office has issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Asylum

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis the asylum support benefit rates are set; and whether that basis will apply to their next uprating. [244149]

Mr. Woolas: The statutory basis of asylum support is to meet the essential living needs of asylum seekers and their dependants who would otherwise be destitute. No decision has been taken on the uprating of asylum support rates for 2009.

Asylum: Children

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum-seeking children below the age of 18 years old are without parents or guardians. [243286]

Mr. Woolas: An unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) is defined as a person who at the time of making an asylum application is under 18, or who, in the absence of documentary evidence establishing age, appears to be under that age; is applying for asylum in his or her own right and; is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so.

Information is published in table 2.3 of the annual publication, which gives details of UASCs aged 17 or under, who applied for asylum by country of nationality. Annual Statistics on UASCs, 2005-07, are available in the latest annual publication Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007, which is held in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many unsuccessful asylum seekers were in receipt of section 4 support on 1 November 2008. [243119]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the numbers in receipt of section 4 support is published on a quarterly basis in the Control of Immigration Quarterly statistical bulletin. The latest published information shows that as at the end of September 2008, 10,220 applicants, excluding dependants, were in receipt of Section 4 support.

Further National Statistics on asylum and immigration are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi and *(b)* Afghan nationals have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted asylum in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [243672]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of applications received for asylum, and grants of asylum at initial decision, broken down by nationality. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same year.

The information is published in Table 2.1 (Applications received) and Table 3.1 (Cases granted asylum) of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin which is available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Asylum: North Korea

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people claiming to be North Korean citizens have applied for asylum in each of the last five years. [243614]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows principal asylum applications for nationals of North Korea in each of the last five years.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, 2003-2007, nationals of Korea (North)

	Applications		
	Total	*Port*	*In country*
2003	10	—	10
2004	20	*	20
2005	30	—	30
2006	45	—	45
2007[2]	410	*	410

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five, (- = 0, * = one or two).
[2] Provisional figures.

Bookmakers: Burglary

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many betting shop robberies there were in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [244892]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on offences of robbery recorded by the police but no information is available on the type of premises robbed.

Bookmakers: Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of violence there were against *(a)* male and *(b)* female betting shop workers in (i) England and Wales, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last two years. [244889]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on offences of violence against the person recorded by the police but no information is available on the sex or occupation of the victims.

Borders: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likelihood of compliance by 2009 of charter and leisure operators which serve popular tourist destinations with requirements set under the e-Borders scheme for inbound travel documents. [243273]

Jacqui Smith: The requirements of e-Borders have been presented to all carriers operating to and from the UK. No distinction is made between 'charter and leisure operators' and scheduled carriers and indeed the majority of carriers operate a mix of both scheduled and charter services.

In some instances, carriers have stated that they are likely to be unable to discharge their full obligations for data capture and transmission to e-Borders from the planned roll out date. Consequently e-Borders has invested in the creation of a series of transitional technical solutions (valid until the end of 2009) allowing carriers to supply data in a flexible manner that satisfies the requirements of the programme.

e-Borders is confident that by continuing to work in partnership with the industry and by offering transitional technical solutions the overall compliance rate will be very high.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the projected benefits to the leisure and charter industry from the e-Borders scheme to begin to flow. [243294]

Jacqui Smith: The creation of a safe and secure border is a benefit that will be felt by all of those involved in the travel industry including the travelling public.

The experience of project Semaphore has clearly demonstrated the value that advance capture and processing of passenger information adds to the safety and security of the United Kingdom by permitting the authorities to intervene in a timely and proportionate manner on those who would seek to do us harm.

The early capture of such information will be a key enabler for efficient processing of passengers and crew at the UK border and in turn benefit carriers and their passengers in maintaining smooth flow through their ports.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what deadlines have been set under the e-Borders scheme in respect of *(a)* outbound and *(b)* inbound travel document information for (i) leisure aviation, (ii) scheduled aviation, (iii) ferries, (iv) international rail, (v) boats, (vi) light aviation and (vii) other sectors. [243295]

Jacqui Smith: e-Borders does not distinguish between inbound and outbound data, but rather focuses on individual routes where all carriers operating that route are required to submit data from a specific date, inbound and outbound.

Regarding the specific modes detailed in the question I can say that the full e-Borders roll out will commence from March 2009 for scheduled aviation and thereafter will be receiving data from all other sectors from 2010. This process will be rolled out across the industry in accordance with the country based roll out plan, with 95 per cent. of the totality of inbound and outbound passengers.

Cannabis: Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when warnings for cannabis possession will be recorded on the Police National Computer. [241603]

Jacqui Smith: The recording of cannabis warnings on the Police National Computer (PNC) has been considered but is not currently being pursued pending the availability of PentiP. The new PentiP 24-hour national fixed penalty database which is due to be available from 2010 will be developed to include a facility to record cannabis warnings.

The recording of cannabis warnings is currently a matter for individual police forces at a local level this will remain so until the availability of PentiP. ACPO have undertaken to ensure that all forces are fully aware of the importance of accurately recording cannabis warnings locally.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at which sites the Channel Project has been rolled out to date; and at which sites she plans to roll out the project in the future. [245498]

Mr. Coaker: To date Channel Project sites are currently operational in London, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Bedfordshire and more recently in South Wales. Plans are in place to expand the project further in London, West Midlands, Lancashire, Thames Valley, South Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the full evaluation of the Channel Project referred to on page 46 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise. [245499]

Mr. Coaker: An OSCT process evaluation of the Channel Project is currently underway. We will be sharing implementation lessons in spring 2009.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures she has put in place to *(a)* provide accountability and *(b)* maintain community confidence in relation to the Channel Project. [245500]

Mr. Coaker: The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England makes it clear that the police and local authorities need to take a lead in ensuring that local partnerships have been clearly tasked with driving delivery of a jointly agreed programme of action that:

Meets the specific objectives of the Prevent strategy;

Is jointly agreed and managed by the police, local authority and other partners;

Is proportionate to the level of threat in the area;

Reflects local needs; and

Sets out clear and tangible milestones in tracking progress.

The guide makes it clear that local communities should be actively engaged in multi-agency partnerships and should shape the development and implementation of the jointly agreed programme of action.

Where Channel is operational it will form an important part of local areas' programmes of action.

All local authorities have to report on progress on the prevent strategy through National Indicator 35—'Building Resilience to Violent Extremism', which is replicated in the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety performance framework. The introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment in April 2009 will further ensure effective and efficient performance by local authorities and other local partners on Prevent.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which areas *(a)* have set up multi-agency partnerships focused on preventing violent extremism, referred to on page 9 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England published in June 2008, *(b)* have set up groups focused specifically on the Prevent Strategy and *(c)* are using an existing group, such as a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership or Local Strategic Partnership. [245559]

Mr. Coaker: Government offices provide information on Prevent partnership working each quarter for the 78 areas that received preventing violent extremism funding this financial year as part of their area based grant. The last return provided in September 2008 reported that 60 of these areas had a multi-agency Prevent partnership in place. We do not specifically request information on whether the named partnership is a new group but we understand that most areas have decided that an existing partnership, such as a crime and disorder reduction partnership or local strategic partnership, should be tasked to oversee their work on Prevent at a strategic level.

Government offices continue to work with local areas to ensure that effective delivery arrangements are in place and are providing challenge and guidance to those areas that have yet to agree a multi-agency partnership to lead on Prevent.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who will have overall responsibility at a local level for the regular assessment and reviews of the threat of individuals and communities becoming involved in violent extremism, referred to on page 12 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England; how often such assessments will be carried out; and if she will make a statement. [245560]

Mr. Coaker: The police are developing a new process for sharing information which will enable all BCU Commanders and Local Authority Chief Executives to see an assessment of the vulnerabilities in their areas, and will be responsible for co-ordinating this activity with a range of partners. Assessments will be reviewed at least annually, depending on the threat in a particular area.

Community Relations: Police

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which constabularies have undertaken exercises with objectives similar to Operation Nicole referred to on page 29 of The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England. [245596]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect this information centrally. The Association of Chief Police Officers (Terrorism and Allied Matters) has national responsibility for co-ordinating and overseeing police led counter-terrorism tabletop exercises.

Control Orders

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 3 April 2008 to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire, (Mr. Vara) *Official Report*, column 1314W, on control orders, how many individuals are currently subject to control orders; and how many of those are receiving benefits administered by the Department for Work and Pensions, broken down by type of benefit. [244725]

Mr. Coaker: In relation to the total number of individuals currently subject to control orders, I would refer the hon. Member to the latest written ministerial statement in relation to control orders which was published on 15 December 2008. This statement explains that, as of 10 December 2008, there were 15 control orders in force.

The latest information that the Home Office holds shows that eight of the individuals currently subject to control orders are in receipt of benefits that are administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Some individuals are in receipt of more than one form of DWP administered benefit. Of these individuals: two receive incapacity benefit, five receive job seeker's allowance, one receives disability living allowance, two receive income support and two receive child tax credit.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much her Department has spent on *(a)* accommodation, *(b)* council tax, *(c)* utility bills, *(d)* telephone line rental, *(e)* pre-paid telephone cards and *(f)* any other necessary subsistence payments, for individuals subject to control orders who have been prevented from gaining employment or rendered ineligible for benefits in each year since 2005; [244726]

(2) how many individuals currently subject to control orders have been prevented from gaining employment or have been rendered ineligible for benefits due to their terms of their control order; and how many of those individuals are currently receiving subsistence payments from her Department, broken down by type of subsistence payment. [244727]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not spent any money on providing accommodation, council tax, utility bills, telephone line rental or pre-paid telephone cards for individuals subject to control orders due simply to their being prevented from gaining employment or rendered ineligible for benefits as a result of their control orders.

Since the commencement of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 one individual subject to a control order was assessed as being ineligible for employment related benefits, for a short period, as a result of the terms of his control order. The individual concerned received subsistence payments totalling £240 over an eight-week period in 2006.

Although not as a result of his being made ineligible for employment related benefits, the Home Office has in 2008 also paid the following subsistence costs for this same individual:

(a) £7744 on his Home Office-provided accommodation;

(b) £429 on his council tax;

(c) £891 on utilities; and

(d) £88 on line rental.

The Home Office has not paid for this individual's accommodation, council tax, utility bills, telephone line rental, or pre-paid telephone cards in any preceding year.

Counter-Terrorism Act 2008

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents she plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential on the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008; and if she will make a statement. [243695]

Mr. Coaker: The Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 received Royal Assent on 26 November 2008.

Part 5 (terrorist financing and money laundering) and part 6 (financial restrictions proceedings) of the Act came into force on the day after Royal Assent. The Lord Chancellor has made two sets of Rules of Court under section 72 of the Act. They are (i) the Supreme Court of England and Wales Civil Procedure (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2008 (SI 2008/3085) and (ii) the Rules of the Supreme Court (Northern Ireland) (Amendment No.3) 2008 (S.R. (N.I.) 2008, No. 479). Both were laid before Parliament on 2 December 2008.

Sections 85-90 (costs of policing at gas sites) will come into force, by virtue of section 100(3) (commencement) on 26 January 2009, that is two months after Royal Assent. Following this the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will make an order designating the National Grid (NTS) as a gas transporter and subsequently they will issue directions to Ofgem and to the gas transporter.

Section 91 (appointment of special advocates in Northern Ireland) will come into force when section 27 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (ch.26) comes into force.

The other provisions in the Act will be brought into force by commencement order.

The provisions relating to the power to remove documents (sections 1-9) and post-charge questioning (part 2 of the Act) require the PACE codes of practice to be revised when they are brought into force. Drafts of these revised PACE codes were laid in the House Library during the passage of the Act and they will be consulted upon in the normal way.

The formal consultation process is likely to be in January 2009.

In respect of section 28 (which provides UK-wide jurisdiction for terrorism offences) the Lord Advocate and the Attorney-General will set out some of the main considerations that may be relevant to decisions made under this section and this document will be made available in the House Library before the provisions are brought into force.

In relation to the provisions in Part 4 of the Act (the notification scheme for convicted terrorists) regulations will be made under section 52 (Travel outside the United Kingdom); Rules of Court will be made in relation to notification orders; a standard form for police acknowledgment of notification will be prescribed and regulations may be made prescribing further information that must be notified under the scheme.

Some of the other provisions in the Act will also require other supporting work to be in place before they may be implemented. Departmental circulars will accompany the commencement orders and other guidance will be issued where appropriate

Crime and Policing Bill

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to assess the social impact of the planned Crime and Policing Bill on those groups likely to be affected by it. [244951]

Mr. Coaker: Impact assessments have been produced for the necessary provisions within the Policing and Crime Bill and are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ia-police-crime-bill-08/

and also at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/closed/airportpolicing/revisedimpactassessmet.pdf

Equality impact assessments for relevant provisions in the Bill will be published before Second Reading in the House of Commons.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Policing Green Paper of July 2008, what indicators will be used to measure her Department's performance in tackling serious crime. [243606]

Jacqui Smith: Policing performance is measured through the Assessments of Policing And Community Safety (APACS) framework, which contains key performance indicators for the police working alone or in partnership. These include performance indicators for serious violent crime, gun crime, knife crime and others. A full list of the indicators in APACS was set out in 'The Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2008' (10 March 2008).

Crime: Burglary

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the levels of domestic burglary in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, in each of the last five years. [245021]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to recorded offences of domestic burglary and is given in the following table. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency comes within the Middlesbrough Basic Command Unit. Data for Tees Valley are not available.

Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England and Wales[1]	402,345	321,507	300,517	292,260	280,704
North East Region	19,550	14,934	13,095	12,305	10,881
Middlesbrough	2,080	1,617	1,303	1,374	1,135

[1] Includes British Transport police

Crime: Motor Vehicles

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the levels of vehicle-related crime in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, in each of the last five years. [245022]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to recorded offences against vehicles and is given in the following table. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency comes within the Middlesbrough Basic Command Unit. Data for Tees Valley are not available.

Offences against vehicles[1] recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Area	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England and Wales	985,006	820,096	792,821	765,015	656,549
North East Region	43,203	36,693	35,294	30,973	25,564
Middlesbrough	5,065	5,845	4,790	3,971	2,786

[1] Includes offences of theft of and from a vehicle, aggravated vehicle-taking and interfering with a motor vehicle.
[2] Includes British Transport Police.

Crime: Victims

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to support victims of crime. [244561]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have placed victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system and given support services to them a high priority.

Since 2004 the Government have introduced the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime which gives victims legal rights to support and information about their case. It has also supported the development of Victim Support into a strong national organisation able to help more victims more quickly. Victim Support is an independent charity and is the main provider of services to victims and witnesses across England and Wales. Over recent years funding has increased from £11.7 million to £30 million. Victim Support has recently introduced an improved business process, with an additional £12.6 million from Government, so that victims can be contacted quickly, have their needs assessed and, if needed, be offered a wider range of practical services than was previously available.

In addition the Government fund a number of other organisations offering specialist support services through the Victims Fund. £8.2 million has been invested so far funding for services to victims of sexual violence, childhood sexual abuse, hate crime and homicide. The Poppy project supports adult women who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation and this includes provision for temporarily accommodating victims.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has provided £5.6 million since 2007 for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) who provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm. The money

provides IDVAS to support victims as their cases progress through specialist domestic violence courts. The £5.6 million follows £2 million of Home Office funding in 2006-07.

The recently published Youth Crime Action Plan will be improving support services to young victims of crime. The plan has been developed jointly between the OCJR, Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Home Office. The Action Plan will deliver results on youth justice, youth crime prevention and cross cutting themes on victimisation.

Support after Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) receives an annual grant of £140,000 to provide advice and support to those bereaved by homicide and presents training to police forces and other statutory agencies (e.g. the Health and Safety Executive) on bereavement awareness issues.

Victims and witnesses have a voice in shaping government policy and future support services through the Victims Advisory Panel and, shortly, the appointment of a commissioner for victims and witnesses will be able to promote the views of victims and witnesses at the highest levels.

Crime: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of youth crime. [244563]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to driving down youth crime and keeping the communities, including young people themselves, safer.

The vast majority of young people are well behaved and it is a minority we need to focus on, who are responsible for half of all youth crime.

As well as the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP), the Government have published (15 July) the Youth Crime Action Plan. This is a joint initiative by the Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The plan sets out a comprehensive cross-Government plan to tackle youth crime, with a triple track approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention. It will deliver an extensive and comprehensive package of measures for children, young people and families that is backed by £100 million of funding to help prevent young people getting involved in crime.

The £100 million is being used for:

extra investment in all areas of England to support families with the most entrenched and complex problems;

an intensive programme of action for priority areas where problem of youth crime is greatest; including taking unsupervised young people off the streets at night and requiring young people to complete community service on Friday and Saturday nights; and

guidance of recommended approaches to reducing youth crime for these areas that they can tailor to their local needs, achieving the right balance between enforcement action to tackle the problems on our streets and prevention measures to ensure future generations do not make the same mistakes.

There is already a great deal of work going on across Government to tackle youth crime and anti social behaviour. Positive Futures programme is a national sports based social inclusion programme which is funded by the Home Office in partnership with the Football Foundation.

The programme aims to have a positive influence on young people's lives through widening their horizons and providing access to new opportunities by using sport, art and leisure activities as a catalyst to encourage project participation and steering young people towards education, training and employment.

Crimes of Violence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes have been reported in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, in each of the last five years. [245023]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

The available information is given in the following table. The Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency comes within the Middlesbrough Basic Command Unit. Data for Tees Valley are not available.

Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England and Wales[1]	967,228	1,048,095	1,059,585	1,046,168	961,188
North East Region	40,561	41,537	46,206	48,194	41,085
Middlesbrough	2,922	3,653	4,560	5,119	4,721

[1] Includes British Transport Police.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the career prospects of individuals of having unsubstantiated allegations on their Criminal Records Bureau disclosures. [246040]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not hold criminal records or records of allegations. Rather, in processing disclosure applications, the CRB obtains information held by the police service and from lists held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DoH).

Therefore, although the CRB does not know how many individuals are the subject of unsubstantiated allegations on their disclosures, the Bureau is aware of the impact such allegations can have on an applicant's career prospects.

It is for this reason that the CRB has issued a range of guidance, and a code of practice, to those who use the CRB service to ensure that, where conviction or non-conviction exists, it is discussed fairly and transparently.

The CRB operates a disputes procedure where disclosed data can be challenged by an applicant, although the retention or disposal of intelligence material held by the police is entirely a matter for the chief officer.

Criminal Records: EU Action

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the European Criminal Record Information system will allow the vetting of prospective employees by *(a)* airport authorities and *(b)* other sensitive employers; and what estimate she has made of the speed with which a request for information on a prospective employee's record could be answered. [243296]

Jacqui Smith: In October, the EU agreed a Council Decision on the establishment of the European Criminal Record Information System (ECRIS). This proposal is designed to provide a standardised format for the secure electronic exchange of criminal records information including the offence and the sentence.

Criminal record exchange in the EU is still currently governed by Council Decision 2005/876/JHA of 21 November 2005 on the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record. Under these arrangements, the UK Central Authority for Exchange of Criminal Records (UKCA-ECR) is automatically told by other member states of convictions of British nationals in other EU countries and can ask other member states for the previous criminal history of one of their citizens who is involved in criminal proceedings here. Responses to such requests should be provided within 10 days.

Where the UKCA-ECR receives this information, it is recorded on our police national computer. It will therefore be available to the Criminal Records Bureau and Disclosure Scotland.

When ECRIS is implemented, it will allow swifter exchange of criminal records information than is the case now.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2226W, on departmental consultants, how many security passes her Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months; and if she will put in place measures to record the number of external consultants contracted to provide services for her Department. [244836]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does employ consultants for specialist areas of activity. The Department has records of passes issued to external contractors, including consultants. However, the cost involved in confirming the number of passes issued to consultants over the 12 months would incur disproportionate costs in accordance with extant guidelines.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by her Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244707]

Mr. Woolas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

In respect of other correspondence and emails from the public, only non-individually addressed correspondence is managed centrally. The information requested cannot be obtained save at disproportionate cost as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by her Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244348]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's accounting system does not hold the information at the requested level of detail. The information could not be provided and verified without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [244189]

Mr. Woolas: In the 2007-08 reporting year, and from the data available, 146 members of staff across Home Office headquarters, the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) and the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) did not achieve an acceptable assessment marking in their annual reports.

The Criminal Records Bureau is able to provide this information only by reviewing individual paper records, and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241242]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in Managing Public Money.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243747]

Mr. Woolas: No official funds were used for Christmas parties in the last three years: any parties attended are entirely at the cost of the individual member of staff. Expenditure on staff entertainment is tightly controlled, and is only incurred as part of the Home Office policy on staff reward and recognition, and where it is shown that alternative forms of recognition (such as saying

thank you, providing vouchers, or a bonus) have been considered. The Department's accounting system shows that expenditure on reward and recognition has been:

	£
2005-06	13,687.08
2006-07	57,963.78
2007-08	203,980.11

All Home Office expenditure on rewards and recognition, including staff entertainment, conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money.

The increase in expenditure is attributable to enhanced communication and senior management support of the reward and recognition policy, which in line with Central Government practice.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what bonuses were paid by her Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240794]

Mr. Woolas: In Home Office Headquarters and the UK Border Agency staff in all grades are eligible in certain circumstances to receive two kinds of bonus: special bonuses (of up to 5 per cent. of salary but not exceeding £1,947) and end-of-year appraisal bonuses (of up to 4 per cent. of their pay scale's target rate). Special bonuses may be awarded at any time of the year for outstanding achievements by staff, including members of the senior civil service (SCS), in particularly demanding tasks or situations.

End-of-year appraisal bonuses are made to individuals in grades below the SCS who have made an exceptional contribution throughout the year. Members of the SCS can be awarded performance bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report number 62.

Staff in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) receive end-of-year corporate Bonuses (up to £400), Change Agent bonuses (grades 6 and 7 only, up to 4 per cent. of salary) and special bonuses (upper limit normally £500).

Staff in the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) do not receive end-of-year bonuses, but can receive special bonuses (up to 5 per cent. of their grade's salary scale). For reasons of confidentiality, we are unable to release the names of individuals who received bonuses. Tables 1 and 2 give details of the distribution by grade of special bonuses and end-of-year appraisal bonuses respectively.

Table 1: Special bonus 2007-08

	Number/£
Total paid out (£)	2,680,642
Number of payments made	4,577

Grade	*As percentage of payments*
AA and Equivalents	6
AO and Equivalents	20
EO and Equivalents	27
HEO and Equivalents	11
SEO and Equivalents	20
G7	6
G6	3
SCS	4
Support and secretarial	3

Table 2: End-of-year appraisal bonus 2007-08

	Number/£
Total paid out (£)	5,735,416
Number of payments made	9,331

Grade	*As percentage of payments*
AA and Equivalents	3
AO and Equivalents	14
EO and Equivalents	34.50
HEO and Equivalents	20
SEO and Equivalents	14
G7	8
G6	4
SCS	0.50
Support and secretarial	2

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 259W, on departmental procurement, what payments the Identity and Passport Service made to Swingletree Stables in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [241875]

Jacqui Smith: Two payments, totalling £300 were made to the Swingletree Stables in the 2007-08 financial year, as part of IPS's Adult Lifelong Learning (ALL) scheme.

This employee development scheme has been set up to encourage staff personal development. It provides limited financial assistance to employees to undertake a course/activity in their own time that results in improved skills/knowledge.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 November, *Official Report*, columns 318-9W, on deportation, how many of the 63,365 removals from the United Kingdom in 2007 were cases of *(a)* enforced removals, *(b)* persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed, including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, *(c)* persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, *(d)* persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and *(e)* persons whom it has been established have left the United Kingdom without informing the immigration authorities. [243430]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of persons removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the United Kingdom in 2007. Information on the number of enforced removals from the UK and persons departing voluntarily after enforcement

action had been initiated against them are not separately identifiable. This combined category is available broken down to show the number of persons whom it has been established have left the United Kingdom without informing the Immigration Authorities. The figures are rounded to the nearest five and data for 2007 are provisional.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1], by removal type, 2007

Period	*Number of removals[2] 2007[3]*
Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed[4]	31,145
Enforced removals including voluntary departures after enforcement action had been initiated[5, 6]	28,065
of which:	
left the UK without informing the Immigration Authorities	6,885
Assisted Voluntary Returns[7]	4,155
Grand Total	63,365

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[3] Provisional
[4] Includes cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and removals which have been performed by Immigration Officers at ports using enforcement powers.
[5] Includes persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[6] Excludes Assisted Voluntary Returns.
[7] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people eligible to remain in the UK under the DP5/96 concession have been deported since 2001. [244584]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of people deported under the DP5/96 concession is not available and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Children

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children were awaiting deportation from the UK on 1 December 2008; [243767]

(2) how many children were awaiting deportation to *(a)* Zimbabwe, *(b)* Democratic Republic of Congo, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Georgia and *(e)* Somalia on 1 December 2008. [243768]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The UK Border Agency seeks to deport all foreign nationals who are convicted of committing serious crimes in the United Kingdom. It only deports children who are part of family groups, or, where the child is unaccompanied, where there are adequate and safe reception arrangements in place. In order to obtain the exact information requested it would be necessary to conduct checks of individual case files; this would incur a disproportionate cost.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of asylum seekers who were removed, departed voluntarily or left under assisted returns from the UK by country of nationality, age and sex on an annual basis.

The latest published annual information for 2007 can be found in the House Library.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on deportation: offenders, if she will list the grounds for deportation relating to national security other than suspected involvement in terrorism. [243909]

Jacqui Smith: Any foreign national who represents a threat to the national security of the United Kingdom will be considered for deportation action.

Involvement in terrorism would be one ground for regarding an individual as a threat to our national security. Other possible grounds include involvement in espionage, sabotage, or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or seeking to overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on deportation: offenders, where the 19 individuals whose deportation has been discontinued are residing. [243910]

Jacqui Smith: I am unable to answer this question as some of the individuals are subject to court orders preventing any personal information regarding their cases being placed in the public domain. Additionally it would not be prudent to place such personal information onto official public records.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on deportation: offenders, when the six individuals deported after they were certified under Part 4 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 were deported. [243911]

Jacqui Smith: The six individuals referred to in the question who were previously certified under part 4 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 were deported between June 2006 and July 2007. They were all deported using deportation with assurances powers.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 721W, on deportation: offenders, where the nine individuals certified under Part 4 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 who have not been deported are residing. [243912]

Jacqui Smith: I am unable to fully answer this question as some of the individuals are subject to court orders preventing any personal information regarding their cases being placed in the public domain. Additionally, it would not be prudent to place such personal information onto official public records, however I can confirm that one of these individuals has been extradited to France.

Detention Centres: Suicide

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have committed suicide while being held in an immigration centre in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* centre, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex. [243154]

Jacqui Smith: There have been seven self-inflicted deaths in immigration removal centres during this period detailed as follows. All were failed asylum seekers or other immigration offenders awaiting removal.

One in Haslar, aged 42. Two in Harmondsworth, ages were 31 and 26. One in Dungavel, aged 23. One in Colnbrook, aged 24. One in Campsfield, aged 18. One in Yarl's Wood, aged 35. All the individuals were male.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reports of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person contrary to section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 were made to the police in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [243601]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to recorded offences of causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person. There were five offences recorded in 2005-06, three recorded in 2006-07 and four recorded in 2007-08.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to introduce a penalty notice for disorder as a sanction for the possession of *(a)* any other Class B drugs besides cannabis and *(c)* any Class C drugs. [241602]

Jacqui Smith: No. The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Amendment) Order 2009 seeks to extend the Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme to the possession of cannabis only. There are no plans to extend the scheme to other Class B drugs or any Class C drugs.

Entry Clearances: Moldova

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will establish a visa regime applicable to categories of persons wishing to visit the UK from Moldova at the same time as the analogous EU arrangements are put in place. [243703]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: The UK has a visa regime in place for visitors from Moldova. The EU-Moldova visa facilitation agreement entered into force on 1 January 2008. It was concluded under an element of the Schengen acquis in which the UK does not participate. The agreements do, however, contain provisions recommending that the UK concludes bilateral visa-facilitation agreements. Although the UK is under no formal obligation, we intend to do so however, formal negotiations have yet to commence with Moldova.

Genetics: Databases

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crime scene and *(b)* police officer DNA profiles have been removed from the national DNA database in each month of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [240864]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of crime scene DNA profiles removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) for police forces in England and Wales in each month of the last five years is given in Table 1.

The DNA profiles of police officers and staff taken for contamination elimination purposes are not held on the NDNAD, but on the Police Elimination Database (PED), which is entirely separate from the NDNAD. The number of police officer and staff DNA profiles that have been removed from the PED in each month of the last five years is given in Table 2.

Table 1: Number of crime scene profiles removed from the NDNAD for forces in England and Wales

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 to date
April	870	4,050	3,752	3,102	1,509	2,898
May	1365	3,234	1,903	1,896	1,593	2,036
June	1094	2,569	2,024	1,722	1,760	2,433
July	2066	3,035	4,278	2,693	1,974	1,730
August	1,874	1,574	2,025	4,898	1,956	2,263
September	2,645	1,158	2,363	3,206	1,389	1,472
October	1,673	3,151	1,588	1,975	1,353	2,528
November	2,313	3,076	2,883	1,503	2,320	879
December	1,411	21,076	1,601	3,175	2,435	245
January	3,442	2,862	2,807	4,111	6,542	—
February	3,035	6,218	2,459	2,013	2,494	—
March	2,219	1,254	1,919	1,677	2,153	—
Total	24,007	53,257	29,602	31,971	27,478	16,484

Table 2: Number of profiles removed from the PED for forces in England and Wales

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 to date
April	58	161	155	414	189	201
May	123	203	181	175	248	303
June	88	196	161	142	331	170
July	161	131	134	215	292	363
August	122	127	149	302	535	325
September	92	189	134	173	292	174
October	120	197	161	240	235	1131
November	236	211	186	169	209	308
December	131	197	179	174	190	113
January	228	135	153	129	393	—
February	234	155	224	165	342	—
March	135	120	173	261	141	—
Total	1,728	2,022	1,990	2,559	3,397	3,088

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of incidents where personal information and DNA samples which *(a)* were to be

loaded onto the national DNA database and *(b)* have been loaded onto the national DNA database have been lost; and if she will make a statement. [240924]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 859W, to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott).

Hatton Cross Tribunals

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2258W, on Hatton Cross Tribunals, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Newbury; and if she will make a statement. [244010]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 9 December 2008 in response to PQs 226752 and 239031.

Human Trafficking

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to deal with people who are identified as having been trafficked. [242657]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office jointly funds the Poppy project to provide specialist, high-level support to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Victims are provided with a 30 day reflection period, accommodation, advocacy support, access to counselling, interpretative services, access to immigration legal advice, resettlement support and a range of other services to meet their individual needs. The Poppy project also has outreach teams. This year the Government piloted support services for victims trafficked into domestic servitude and forced labour.

We ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings on 17 December 2008 and will come into force in April 2009. This will see the introduction of a 45 day minimum reflection period and one-year temporary residence permits, both of which will be extendable in certain circumstances. We will also introduce a national support service model with an increased number of supported accommodation places.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department notified the Metropolitan Police that her Department's funding of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit would cease; what representations she has received from the Metropolitan Police on this matter; and if she will place in the Library copies of the correspondence she has *(a)* sent and *(b)* received on the matter. [241791]

Jacqui Smith: Following discussions with the MPS we have agreed, exceptionally, to provide funding which will enable the MPS to maintain the trafficking team for 2009-10 and to ensure that this work is mainstreamed into the existing budget. The funding has been offered on the basis that the full cost of the trafficking team is met solely from the MPS budget as from 1 April 2010.

The MPS were informed by ACPO of the grant available for the current financial year in early 2008.

On one previous occasion the MPS wrote to the Home Office about this matter. It was made clear to the MPS at the time, that as core police business the funding of the trafficking team should be met from within their existing budget.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* working as prostitutes in the UK. [244929]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The nature of the crime makes it difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem faced by the United Kingdom.

The latest estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who had been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

We have no estimate of the scale of trafficking for non sexual purposes.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children rescued from human traffickers have subsequently been put up in bed and breakfast accommodation in each of the last five years; [243308]

(2) where children rescued from human traffickers are accommodated. [243307]

Jacqui Smith: There are no central records on the type of accommodation provided for trafficked children. When a child is identified as a victim of trafficking a full assessment is made of their circumstances and needs by a designated social worker as required by section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Should there be an imminent risk of harm then child protection procedures under Section 47 of the Act should be invoked. Following these assessments it will be for the local authority to determine the exact nature of accommodation provided.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* the use of safe accommodation at the Poppy Project is available for children who are victims of human trafficking and *(b)* there is safe accommodation providing 24-hour care for trafficked children. [243309]

Jacqui Smith: The POPPY project was established exclusively to support and accommodate adult women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation and does not therefore accommodate child victims.

When a child is identified as a victim of trafficking, a full assessment is made of their circumstances and needs by a social worker as required by section 20 of the Children Act 1989. If on the basis of this assessment, the child is unaccompanied and there is no suitable adult to take responsibility for their care; or the child appears to be lost or abandoned, then there will be a presumption that the child will need to become a looked-after child. Where it is judged that the child would be best looked after under foster care or in a children's home, then 24-hour care will be provided.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has assessed the possibility that rescued children who are victims of human trafficking may still be under the control of traffickers while they are in local authority care. [243347]

Jacqui Smith: The Government acknowledges that some rescued trafficked children placed in local authority care may still be vulnerable to their trafficker. In December 2007 the Government published "Working Together to Safeguard Children Who May Have Been Trafficked". This multi agency guidance provides comprehensive information on how a child should be protected from their trafficker and of the risks of a child being re-trafficked.

Human Trafficking: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum sentence is for human trafficking offences. [243302]

Jacqui Smith: The maximum sentence is 14 years imprisonment. The courts have the power to impose an additional fine on those convicted.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what public funding is available for victims of trafficking to the UK from *(a)* the first group of EU accession countries, *(b)* the second group of EU accession countries and *(c)* Romania and Bulgaria who wish to return to their home countries; and what steps are taken to (i) accompany such people to the airport of departure and (ii) ensure support and advice is available to them in their home country. [243825]

Mr. Woolas: No public funding is currently available for victims of trafficking to the UK for EEA (European economic area) nationals who wish to return to their home countries.

Identity Cards: Biometrics

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long the biometric information will be retained in respect of foreign nationals issued with a biometric identity card after the individual concerned has returned permanently to their home country. [244113]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Borders Act 2007 provides for biometric information collected by the Secretary of State to be retained as long as retention of that data is necessary. The specified functions, for example, include functions under the Immigration Acts or for the prevention or detection of an offence. Where an individual leaves the UK permanently, his biometric data will only be retained in circumstances where they continue to be of use for the purposes prescribed in the regulations. Retention of biometric information will therefore enable the UK Border Agency to identify those who may seek to abuse immigration control by returning to the UK in a false identity, and help to assure the identity of those who are entitled to be here.

The biometric information collected will be destroyed if it is no longer of use for those specified purposes. It will also be destroyed if the person proves that they are a British citizen or a Commonwealth citizen with a right of abode. The exception to this is where the information is retained in accordance with, and for the purposes of, another enactment (that is, where Parliament has already approved retention of information for a particular purpose) for example under the Identity Cards Act 2006.

Identity Cards: Concessions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reductions in the full price of an identity card she plans to offer *(a)* pensioners, *(b)* students and *(c)* those on income support. [244620]

Jacqui Smith: The Identity Cards Act Secondary legislation consultation paper, published on 21 November 2008, made clear that it is intended that the initial fee for an identity card issued in 2009 and 2010 should be a standard fee of £30.

In due course the Government intend to seek views on the price of identity cards or passports as part of the longer term roll out of the National Identity Scheme.

Identity Cards: ICT

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will list the electronic systems that will be used to store the *(a)* biometric, *(b)* biographical and *(c)* administrative information of British citizens applying for identity cards in 2009. [241657]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* For the issue of ID cards in 2009, biometric and biographic information will be stored separately on secure systems being built by the supplier providing the technology for this stage of the National identity Scheme. Administrative information will also be held separately on the biographic system.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her latest estimate of the number of foreign nationals working illegally in Northern Ireland is. [243695]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Since the abolition of embarkation controls, which started in 1994, no government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes those that might be working illegally.

By the end of December 2008, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country.

This is one part of the biggest shake up of border security and the immigration system in a generation which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The UK Border Agency is committed to tackling illegal migrant working and will act on any intelligence it receives that a business is employing illegal workers. Equally, if an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker and they have not ensured that the person has full entitlement to work in the UK, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

Ilois: Immigration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former Chagossians have been granted British citizenship in the last 10 years. [245422]

Mr. Woolas: In the 10 years between 1998 and 2007, five people who were recorded as previously being residents of the British Indian Ocean Territories, formerly known as the Chagos Archipelago, applied for and were granted British citizenship in the United Kingdom. As usual this figure is rounded to five and is, at this stage, provisional.

Statistics on persons granted British citizenship are published annually in Home Office National Statistics statistical bulletins. These publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/nosb0508.pdf.

Immigration Controls

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost in each of the next five years of reintroducing exit checks for all people departing the United Kingdom. [243521]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency is committed to extending exit controls in stages, based on risk, identifying who overstays, and counting everyone in and out of the UK, while avoiding delays to travellers, by 2014.

Over the next five years, the Agency will deliver the e-Borders programme, our primary mechanism for the delivery of this commitment. The cost of the programme over the next five years is set out in the following table. It is not possible to separate the costs of collecting outbound data from inbound data.

£ million

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*Total cost of programme over next five years*
Resource	31.5	48.6	42.2	52.6	57.9	232.9
Capital	96.5	70.2	44.9	89.7	94.2	395.6
Total	128.0	118.9	87.1	142.3	152.1	628.6

e-Borders is already receiving data for inbound and outbound services from a diverse range of carriers on some routes and has been since January 2005. This is supported by physical exit checks where operationally necessary.

Immigration: Airports

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times passengers arriving in UK airports on international flights have entered the country through the arrivals facilities for domestic flights in the last 12 months. [243615]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency is aware of 28 occasions when passengers from international flights were initially directed to a domestic arrivals area in the year since April 2008.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times arriving domestic passengers have been taken to international arrivals at each major UK airport in each of the last five years. [244175]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency does not routinely collect or store information on instances of domestic passengers being directed to international controls as this presents no risk to the security of the border.

Immigration: Appeals

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken following an immigration appeal tribunal hearing was to *(a)* notify in writing the decision to the applicant and *(b)* send written notification of indefinite leave to remain to successful applicants in the latest period for which figures are available. [243208]

Mr. Woolas: Information produced by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) shows that in the period April to November 2008 the average length of time taken following an Immigration Judge hearing to notify in writing the decision to the applicant was seven working days (for all case types including bails).

For the same period, the average waiting time from hearing date to notifying the applicant of the decision in reconsideration hearings was 13 working days.

Following promulgation of the decision all in country and out of country non asylum decisions are served by the AIT. In country decisions are deemed to be received within 48 hours, and out of country decisions within 28 days. All asylum determinations are sent to UKBA to serve within 28 days in accordance with the 2005 AIT Procedure Rules. On 15 October 2008 a new process to serve initial Regional Asylum Team determinations by post on receipt from the AIT was implemented. Determinations are served on the appellant/representative within 48 hours of being received. This process saves a significant amount of time and speeds up the Asylum process.

Information on the average length of time taken following an immigration appeal tribunal hearing to send written notification of indefinite leave to remain to successful applicants is not available. This could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

Immigration: Detainees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees in the Immigration Removal Centre at *(a)* Oakington, *(b)* Yarl's Wood and *(c)* Dungavel have accessed legal advice since 2003. [244587]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not recorded either locally at the removal centres or centrally.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-11WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, when the Government expects the EU to meet the United Nations Commission on Human Rights target for 10,000 Iraqi refugees to be offered protection in the EU; how many such refugees it is anticipated that *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other member states will accommodate; and whether the number that the UK plans to host is in addition to those to whom the Government has already agreed to grant humanitarian protection by virtue of their work for the armed forces. [244311]

Mr. Woolas: It was agreed at the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 27-28 November that EU member states will consider the resettlement of up to 10,000 Iraqi refugees. This target includes those already resettled or who member states have already planned to resettle under current plans. Participation is voluntary.

The UK has committed to resettling 1,000 Iraqi refugees over the course of two years. This number is already planned for by the UK and includes the 600 Iraqis that the UK Government have agreed to resettle because they worked for the British forces or Foreign and Commonwealth Office in Iraq, where they meet the established resettlement criteria. The UK will not be in a position to provide additional spaces to this.

European Union member states will be asked to make their intentions on resettlement of Iraqi refugees clear in the near future. To date, it is not known how many Iraqi refugees other member states will resettle.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter to her of 20 October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Naseem Ahmed. [241691]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 8 December 2008.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Maidenhead of 23 October regarding her constituent Ms Ali. [244193]

Mr. Woolas: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch, (Meg Hillier) wrote to the right hon. Member on 9 December 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 30 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Sehir Hussain. [246525]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 22 December 2008.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 3 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Luis Lamb. [246526]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 6 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 28 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Benmeddah. [246530]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 5 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 7 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Hidal Ibrahim Takroori. [246531]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 5 January 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Motor Vehicles

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles in use by the Metropolitan Police were manufactured outside the UK. [246713]

Mr. Coaker: Individual police forces make all their vehicle purchasing and leasing decisions locally, therefore, this information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

National Identity Card Scheme Strategic Suppliers Group

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the companies which comprise the National Identity Card Scheme Strategic Suppliers Group have not signed the non-disclosure agreement. [243692]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* All five suppliers who comprise the strategic supplier group for the National Identity Scheme have signed a non-disclosure agreement.

National Identity Register

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* individual records on the National Identity Register which will require amendment and *(b)* amendments to the National Identity Register which will be submitted in each year. [242223]

Meg Hillier: It is estimated that around 14 per cent. of the addresses on the National Identity Register will be changed each year, together with a much smaller number of other changes to update individual records on the National Identity Register. The precise number of changes each year will depend on the number of entries held on the National Identity Register which can not be determined until it is in full operation.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Airwave handsets issued to the National Policing Improvement Agency have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the Agency have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246189]

Mr. Coaker: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is not aware of any handsets issued to them having been lost since the NPIA legally vested in April 2007. In November 2008, two Airwave handsets were mislaid for approximately five hours. As a precautionary measure these were disabled from operating on the network.

Oakington Immigration Removal Centre

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees *(a)* with and *(b)* without a criminal condition there are in Immigration Removal Centre Oakington. [244585]

Jacqui Smith: Oakington removal centre holds up to 408 detainees, foreign national ex-prisoners make up on average around one quarter of the centre's population. Local management information shows that on 14 December 2008 there were 103 foreign national ex-prisoners in Oakington.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the male detainees in Immigration Removal Centre Oakington have family members being held in another immigration removal centre. [244586]

Jacqui Smith: We do not hold the data requested centrally.

However, it is the UK Border Agency's policy to keep family members together.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish her estimate of the likely security costs arising from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. [245942]

Mr. Coaker: The then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell) announced on 15 March 2007 that the overall budget for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games included a £600 million envelope of provision for policing and wider security. This is on top of the ODA budget for security of £354 million and the provision that LOCOG has set aside for in-venue security. An additional £238 million will be made available for contingency if required. Work is continuing to finalise the security strategy and plans within these funding estimates.

Overseas Visitors: Japan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Japanese citizens visited the UK in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006. [245289]

Mr. Woolas: The number of Japanese nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom as visitors in 2006 and 2007 is given in the following table. The information shown is based on landing card information and may include the same individuals more than once if they visited the United Kingdom on multiple occasions in the period.

Statistics on passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey and nationality are published annually in table 2.3 of the Home Office publications "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" which are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf.

Table 2.3 gives details of other reasons that Japanese nationals entered the UK each year.

Japanese nationals given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey, 2006 and 2007, United Kingdom

	Number of journeys	
Passengers admitted, by purpose of journey	*2006*[1]	*2007*[2, 3]
Total admitted	563,000	521,000
of which:		
Visitors	339,000	318,000
of which:		
Ordinary	238,000	217,000
Business	102,000	101,000

[1] Due to some gaps in the data from ports, estimates have been used.
[2] May understate due to some administrative records on non-EEA nationals being unavailable for statistical analysis.
[3] Provisional.
Note:
Data rounded to three significant figures.

Passports: Biometrics

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of each *(a)* biometric passport reader and *(b)* identity card reader is expected to be. [243419]

Jacqui Smith: Readers for the current first generation of e-passport, incorporating facial image biometrics, are already in place at immigration posts at the United Kingdom border. Precise costs for readers for the second generation of e-passports and identity cards, incorporating fingerprint biometrics, are not yet available.

Passports: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the annual resource costs of providing passports to British citizens were in each of the last five years. [241861]

Jacqui Smith: The annual expenditure of providing passports services for British nationals in each of the last five financial years was:

	£ million
2007-08	367.8
2006-07	353.6
2005-06	263.9
2004-05	219.4
2003-04	171.3

The resource costs of providing passports to British nationals is recovered by the fees charged in accordance with HM Treasury guidance. Passport fee levels are reviewed annually with HM Treasury to ensure they remain at appropriate cost recovery levels.

Piracy

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people originally detained by the Royal Navy, other agencies or foreign navies who are known or suspected of being involved in piracy and other crimes in the Indian Ocean off the coast of east Africa have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* been granted asylum in the UK and *(c)* been allowed into the UK for an asylum claim to be considered in each of the last five years. [244115]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of people who have *(a)* applied for entry to the United Kingdom *(b)* been granted entry to the United Kingdom and *(c)* applied for asylum at a port of entry who had at some point previously been detained by the Royal Navy, other agencies or foreign navies, who are known or suspected of being involved in piracy and other crimes in the Indian Ocean off the coast of east Africa, is not collated.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been carried out of the effect on the amount of police paperwork of moving responsibility for charging decisions from police forces to the Crown Prosecution Service under the statutory charging initiative. [243859]

Jacqui Smith: Although no specific assessment has been carried out on its impact on police paperwork, a full independent evaluation of the pilot exercise identified a number of significant benefits of statutory charging for the criminal justice system at large, including the police service.

One of the main benefits of the scheme is the early dialogue between a police officer and a duty prosecutor. This consultation enables those cases that are evidentially weak, which can not be strengthened to meet the Code for Crown prosecutors, to be stopped there and then. Under previous arrangements these cases would have entered the court system. A costly and often ineffective exchange of correspondence between the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and police would follow in an attempt to obtain evidence to support the individual case. A high percentage of these cases were then discontinued later in the process, often after several court appearances and after the police had expended additional and unnecessary effort in trying to obtain evidence.

A further benefit has been the improved relationships between police and CPS from close partnership working that has enabled them to better manage other linked initiatives including the Criminal Justice Simple, Speedy Summary (CJSSS) and the Streamlined Process that have improved case management and reduced delay in the courts.

There are several other benefits to the police. Dialogue with a Duty Prosecutor enables borderline and more complex cases to be strengthened, and police officers can be directed at that point to supply only what is really required in terms of the evidence needed to support the case. The original business case for statutory charging also points to further benefits for the police through the potential to enhance the police skills base in dealing with evidential issues as a result of early dialogue with the CPS. The business case predicted that around 238,000 cases per annum would be charged by the CPS and a further 20,000 would be stopped at the point of charge. The benefits to the police in the original business case for statutory charging were estimated to be £6.5 million based on this prediction of caseload.

In practice the benefits to the police are far greater than this. With 550,000 cases now being considered by the CPS each year, the number of cases that are stopped at the point of charge which fail to meet the code test was 160,000 during 2007-08 which provides substantially more benefit to the police than was originally estimated in the business case.

The Government take all aspects of police bureaucracy very seriously and we continue to keep the implications of the charging process, in respect of the amount of paperwork involved, under close review.

I have now appointed Jan Berry as our national independent advocate for achieving reductions in police bureaucracy. I have asked her to identify and examine a number of key policing processes and to make recommendations on how these could be reformed to reduce the amount of paperwork generated for officers. The impact of statutory charging on police paperwork is within the scope of Jan Berry's work.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to require the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to inform her Department of the

number of complaints to the IPCC which have been *(a)* made and *(b)* upheld; if she will publish such information on receipt; and if she will make a statement. [244877]

Mr. Coaker: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is required by law to collate and publish a report presenting statistics on complaints recorded by police forces in England and Wales. Along with other statistical data, the reports contain information on complaints made and upheld. The reports are prepared by the IPCC and laid before Parliament on an annual basis. Reports from 2004-05 can be found on the IPCC website at the following link:

http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/index/resources/research/stats.htm

The Home Office has no plans to issue a statement.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 155-56W, on police complaints, if she will obtain this information from the Independent Police Complaints Commission and place it in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [244878]

Mr. Coaker: Issues relating to the implementation of recommendations is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* operational police officers per head of population there were in Essex Police on average in 2008 to date; what discussions she has had with the Chief Constable of Essex police force about this issue; and if she will make a statement. [244870]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table.

The deployment of police officers to operational and other duties is a matter for the Chief Constable.

Police officer strength for Essex police force, as at 31 March 2008 (FTE)[1,2]

Police force	*Total officers per 100,000 population*	*Total operational officers per 100,000 population*
Essex[3]	203	196

[1] Full-time equivalent. This figure includes those on career breaks or the nearest whole number.
[2] Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[3] Functional group totals do not match published figures. Data quality may be an issue with this force.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers employed by Essex Police will be made *(a)* voluntarily and *(b)* compulsorily redundant in 2008-09; at what cost; and if she will make a statement. [244871]

Mr. Coaker: Police officers cannot be made redundant as they hold the Office of Constable and are not employees of the police authority.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff of each age group and sex were employed by Essex Police and its predecessor bodies in (i) 1979, (ii) 1989, (iii) 1999 and (iv) each year since 2001. [244873]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following tables.

Table 1: Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for Essex police force as at 31 March

As at 31 March each year	*Female officers*	*Male officers*
1979	202	2,259
1989	250	2,496
1999	477	2,414
2001	468	2,419
2002	512	2,433
2003	590	2,417
2004	669	2,451
2005	728	2,502
2006	787	2,535
2007	860	2,480
2008	906	2,479

[1] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items.

Table 2: Police staff strength (headcount) for Essex police force as at 31 March[1]

As at 31 March each year	*Female staff*	*Male staff*
1999	972	429
2001	1,064	510
2002	1,147	568
2003	1,219	625
2004	1,342	722
2005	1,416	750
2006	1,407	763
2007	1,346	773
2008	1,406	784

[1] Data available from 1998 onwards.

Table 3: Provisional numbers of Essex police force officers by age band (headcount)[1] as at 31 March[2]

As at 31 March each year	*25 and under*	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*
2003	353	1630	1046	11
2004	406	1696	1048	15
2005	460	1719	1080	19
2006	483	1766	1105	20
2007	517	1592	1267	21
2008	528	396	1290	32

[1] Provisional data that have not been validated by force. Totals may not match those published elsewhere.
[2] Data available from 2003 onwards.

Table 4: Provisional numbers of Essex police force staff by age band (headcount)[1] as at 31 March[2]

As at 31 March each year	*25 and under*	*26 to 40*	*41 to 55*	*Over 55*
2003	203	614	722	307
2004	250	674	742	398
2005	235	678	768	485
2006	277	674	737	462
2007	235	606	785	509
2008	252	633	786	543

[1] Provisional data that have not been validated by force. Totals may not match those published elsewhere.
[2] Data available from 2003 onwards.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers of each rank have voluntarily ceased employment, other than through redundancy, in Essex Police since June 2007. [244875]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are the number of full-time equivalent police officer voluntary resignations from Essex police force during 2007-08 (1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008). The data given have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

During this time no officers in any of the chief officer, chief superintendent, superintendent or chief inspector ranks resigned.

Two inspectors, 10 sergeants, and 61 constables resigned during this time.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average annual rate of sickness absence was in *(a)* Southend police and (b) Essex Police in each year since 2001; [244946]

(2) how many and what proportion of working days were lost due to *(a)* sickness and *(b)* stress, anxiety or depression in (i) Southend police and (ii) Essex police in each year since 2001. [244947]

Mr. Coaker: The available data relating to police sickness absence are for the amount of police officer and police staff working time lost to sickness, and have been centrally collected from 2002-03 onwards only. The data are published annually on the Home Office website, located at:

http://www.police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/

For 2002-03 and 2003-04, the data are given in the 2003-04 Police Performance Monitoring report, in the form of police officer days lost per person (headcount) per year. For 2004-05 onwards, the data are given in the annual Police Performance Assessment reports, in the form of average number of police officer hours lost per person (headcount) per year. For 2006-07 onwards, this headcount measure was changed to a full-time equivalent measure.

Links are provided for the following years, relating to Essex police. The required data can be found under the headings "resource use" or "resources and efficiency":

2002-03 to 2003-04:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/Essex.pdf

2004-05:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceandmeasurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2004-2005/essex?view=Indicator

2005-06:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceandmeasurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2005-2006/essex?view=Indicator

2006-07:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceandmeasurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2006-2007/essex?view=Indicator

2007-08:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceandmeasurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2007-2008/essex?view=Indicator#resources

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police officers in Essex Police of each sex took early retirement in each year since 2001; [244948]

(2) how many police officers who were facing disciplinary charges in Essex Police retired on grounds of ill health *(a)* before and *(b)* after disciplinary hearings were completed in each of the last five years. [244949]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Police Pensions Regulations 1987 police officers can retire with an ordinary pension if they have at least 25 years' service. The regulations do not provide for early retirement as such, except ill-health retirement on the ground of permanent disablement for the performance of the ordinary duties of a member of the force. The number of ill-health retirements from Essex police between 2000-01 and 2004-05 is given in the following table. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary no longer publish or collect data on numbers of ill-health retirements and figures after 2004-05 are not available.

Data on numbers of officers retiring on ill-health or other grounds in the period between having been informed that they are to appear before a disciplinary hearing and the completion of those proceedings are not held centrally.

Ill-health retirements, Essex police

	Number
2000-01	34
2001-02	32
2002-03	21
2003-04	16
2004-05	13

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to calls made to the police in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend was in each year since 1997; what guidance her Department has given on average response times; what steps her Department takes to monitor police force response times; and if she will make a statement. [244950]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the chief constable of Essex police.

Response times to calls, both emergency and non-emergency, is a fundamental part of the Policing Pledge introduced by the Home Secretary in the Policing Green Paper. By the end of the year all forces in England and Wales will aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds, deploying to emergencies immediately and giving an estimated time of arrival. All non-emergency calls should also be answered promptly and if attendance is needed an estimated time of arrival will be given.

The Policing Green Paper sets out the new relationship between the Government, police and public and the HMIC will validate the delivery of the Pledge, including response times, through their inspection process. Police authorities will also wish to be satisfied that the Pledge is being delivered for local people and the public can raise it locally with the police themselves or through their police authority if they feel that the standards within the Pledge are not being met.

Police: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the total implementation cost of the measures in the Policing Green Paper, published on 17 July 2008. [241605]

Jacqui Smith: The estimated costs of implementing measures contained in the Policing Green Paper were set out in the nine impact assessments completed as part of the development process. Copies of the assessments are available on-line at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/GP_IA/

Police: Firearms

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces do not have dedicated armed response units. [246006]

Jacqui Smith: All 43 police forces in England and Wales have dedicated armed response units. Details of the number of authorised firearms officers in England and Wales are published on an annual basis and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/police-firearms-statistics-06-1.

Police: Medals

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons the Police Long Service Medal requires longer qualification service than other equivalent long service medals awarded to military or civilian personnel. [243934]

Mr. Coaker: The Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (PLS and GCM) was the first UK civilian emergency service long service medal introduced (Fire 1954, Ambulance 1996 and Prisons 2008) and therefore, when it was instituted, the qualification period was not at variance with any other existing civilian emergency service long service medal. It should be noted that the award criteria vary for all these medals, with some not including a good conduct element and others requiring that a considerable period of front-line duty is served, in order to qualify. Military long service medals relate to different service criteria and work patterns to civilian medals and therefore any comparisons to civilian equivalents would be inappropriate.

Police: Moldova

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will establish an exchange programme between the UK and Moldova police to improve co-operation to reduce serious organised crime; [243704]

(2) if she will make arrangements with her Moldovan counterpart for regular bilateral consultations to implement the provisions of the 2001 Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Moldova. [243706]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* SOCA undertakes limited but productive bilateral co-operation with its counterparts in Moldova. This co-operation is underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in the fight against Serious Crime, Organised Crime, Illicit Drug Trafficking and In Like Matters of Mutual Interest, of 17 January 2001, signed by ACPO, HM Customs and Excise, Serious Fraud Office, the Crown Prosecution Service of England and Wales, the National Crime Squad and the National Criminal Intelligence Service. SOCA has assumed the interests and responsibilities of the last two agencies following its establishment in 2006.

SOCA welcomes any opportunity to improve its collaboration with overseas partners.

Police: Occupational Health

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what standards are in place for the provision of occupational health services for armed police officers; and what arrangements are made for the monitoring of the *(a)* physical and *(b)* mental health of such officers. [246005]

Jacqui Smith: The provision of occupational health services for police officers and police staff is the responsibility of the individual chief constable and police authority. All forces have a clearly defined duty of care to their personnel under health and safety legislation.

Police: Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Policing Green Paper of July 2008, what mechanism is in place to assess chief constables' performance and performance-related pay. [243596]

Jacqui Smith: Chief constables' performance is assessed through performance and development reviews (PDRs) which include consideration of their objectives and development plans. The Green Paper explains that we will in future give police authorities the lead role in this process. Chief constables' performance pay is based on the PDR assessment and is determined by the Police Authority in consultation with HM Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what criteria are used to determine whether police constables in Essex Police receive a bonus; and if she will make a statement; [244866]

(2) how much each police officer in Essex Police has received in bonuses in each of the last three years; and what the rank of each such officer was; [244867]

(3) what the average salary of a serving police officer of each rank in Essex police force was in each year since 2001; [244868]

(4) how much each police officer in Essex Police has received in bonuses in each of the last three financial years; and what the rank of each was. [244876]

Mr. Coaker: The criteria for bonuses for constables are set out in police regulations and are that an officer may receive a payment of between £50 and £500 at the discretion of the chief officer for a piece of work that is outstandingly demanding, unpleasant or important. Information about amounts paid to individual officers and average salaries are not collected centrally.

Police: Standards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information each police force must provide to meet they are meeting the levels of service to the community set out in the police pledge; [243607]

(2) how her Department plans to assess each police force in order to determine whether it is meeting the police pledge. [243608]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office will not directly assess forces on whether they are meeting the policing pledge. The pledge is a commitment from the police to the public and sets out clear minimum standards and public entitlement to services. All 43 chief constables have committed to deliver the pledge by the end of the year.

If the public do not feel these standards are being met they can raise it locally with the police themselves or through their police authority.

The Policing Green Paper explained the new relationship between the Government, police and public. The Home Office has now adopted a more strategic role allowing for grassroots accountability and an enhanced role for HMIC in providing public assurance about the quality and standard of policing in all forces. HMIC will therefore validate the delivery of the pledge by forces through their inspection process. Police authorities will also wish to be satisfied that the pledge is being delivered for local people.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on strategic policing priorities, what indicators will be used to assess the strategic policing priorities for 2009-10. [243698]

Jacqui Smith: My strategic policing priorities (SPPs) provide a national strategic context within which police authorities set their local policing plans. The SPPs for 2009-10 emphasise the strategic context for local planning and accountability, as set out in the Policing Green Paper, so that forces tackle the issues that matter most locally in that national context and get best value for money for the public from the resources devoted to policing.

The aim is to move to a system in which the police service is held to account much more at a local level. Police authorities are already required to issue a strategic plan which identifies the force's priorities and objectives over a three year rolling cycle and which must take into account my strategic policing priorities. Local accountability will be enhanced through the introduction of the policing pledge, to be underpinned by a set of local priorities, the publication of local information on crime and police activity and through raising the capacity and influence of police authorities to hold forces to account. A strengthened HMIC will act as guarantor of the public interest in inspecting forces and authorities.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on strategic policing priorities, what mechanisms are in place to measure police performance. [243701]

Jacqui Smith: Policing performance is measured through the Assessments of Policing And Community Safety (APACS) framework, which contains key performance indicators for the police working alone or in partnership. However, as set out in the Policing Green Paper: 'From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together', the Home Office will in future no longer produce graded assessments against those indicators, which have been interpreted by some as de facto targets. Instead, HMIC will take the lead in making and publishing assessments of forces' overall performance, drawing on APACS performance indicators and other information.

Police: Suicide

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of police officers who committed suicide in each year since 2000. [246004]

Jacqui Smith: The information is not centrally collected.

Police: Telephone Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to limit the use of 0800 non-emergency telephone numbers operated by police forces. [244864]

Mr. Coaker: It is a matter for individual police forces what number they use for non-emergency telephone contact. The Home Office has no plans to limit the use of 0800 numbers operated by police forces.

Police: Weapons

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines have been issued to police forces regarding the use by officers of batons, with particular reference to whether there is any part of the body that should not be struck. [244789]

Mr. Coaker: The Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) Personal Safety Manual of Guidance, which is administered by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) on behalf of ACPO, to support and inform operational decision making and training to improve safety during the policing of violent and potentially violent situations.

This guidance is a restricted document, as the majority of the information contained within it relates to operational policing in terms of techniques utilised by staff in the defence of themselves, their colleagues and others. The release of such information would be likely to prejudice the health and safety of officers and others in danger.

There are no 'prescriptive' guidelines that are issued to officers in relation to the use of batons, and there are no areas of the body that officers are instructed should not be struck. However, the guidance makes it clear that the implications arising from the use of force are a matter for considered judgment. The use of force should be in accordance with the Criminal Law Act 1967 Section 3 (1), which states that:

"A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large."

Research Information and Communications Unit

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work in her Department's Research Information and Communication Unit; what forecast she has made of the unit's operation costs in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [245581]

Mr. Coaker: The Research, Information and Communications Unit is comprised of 29 permanent members of staff: 15 members of staff from the Home Office, eight members of staff from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and six members of staff from the Department for Communities and Local Government. When fully recruited the Unit will have 33 permanent staff.

(a) Unit operational costs for 2008-09 amount £4,219,305 (made up of admin allocation £959,305 and programme allocation £3,260,000)

(b) Unit operational costs for 2009-10 amount to £6,651,646 (made up of admin allocation £951,646 and programme allocation £5,700,000)

(c) Unit operational costs for 2010-11 amount to £8,144,371 (made up of admin allocation £944,371 and programme allocation £7,200,000).

Schengen Agreement: Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effect on levels of illegal immigration into the European Union as a result of Switzerland joining the Schengen area. [244114]

Mr. Woolas: Switzerland has been evaluated during the course of 2008 and was found to fulfil the conditions for the practical application of the relevant parts of the Schengen Acquis.

This is a demanding process involving the completion of an extensive questionnaire, written and oral reports and visits by expert committees. The process is designed to ensure that countries joining the Schengen system comply fully with its requirements, including the effective management of external border operations in order to prevent illegal immigration.

The process is overseen by the EU's Schengen Evaluation Working Group, attended Home Office Officials, which reports to the JHA Council. The reports are classified; therefore they are not made available to the European Parliament or to national parliaments.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people employed by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency deal with human trafficking investigations. [243315]

Jacqui Smith: SOCA deploys its resources flexibly against a range of threats, rather than allocating staff to specific subjects in line with set priorities.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are dedicated to human trafficking investigations. [243316]

Jacqui Smith: As indicated in the SOCA Annual Plan 2008-09 the agency intended to apportion 15 per cent. of its operational effort directly to organised immigration crime and additionally 12 per cent. to work on criminals and their business some of which will encompass organised immigration crime.

Sexual Offences: Taxis

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed taxi drivers have been charged with committing a sexual offence since 2001. [244598]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

Statistics on the number of persons charged with offences are not collected centrally.

Tablighi Jamaat

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of whether Tablighi Jamaat plays a role in the radicalisation of young Muslims in the United Kingdom. [243427]

Mr. Coaker: All sources and aspects of radicalisation are studied but by long established convention we do not comment on intelligence assessments.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of whether Tablighi Jamaat poses a security risk to the United Kingdom. [243428]

Mr. Coaker: Security risks of all kinds are regularly assessed but by long-established convention we do not comment on intelligence assessments.

Terrorism: Arrests

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made under terrorism legislation in each of the last five years; and how many of such arrests have resulted in *(a)* charges and *(b)* convictions. [246065]

Mr. Coaker: From 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2007 1,228 arrests were made:

1,165 arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000;

63 arrests under legislation other than the Terrorism Act, where the investigation was conducted as a terrorist investigation.

Of the total 1228 arrested:

132 charged with terrorism legislation offences only;

109 charged with terrorism legislation offences and other criminal offences;

195 charged under other legislation including murder, grievous bodily harm, firearms, explosives offences, fraud, false documents;

76 handed over to immigration authorities;

15 on police bail awaiting charging decisions;

1 warrant issued for arrest;

12 cautioned;

1 dealt with under youth offending procedures;

11 dealt with under mental health legislation;

4 transferred to Police Service of Northern Ireland custody;

2 remanded in custody awaiting extradition proceedings;

669 released without charge;

1 awaiting further investigation.

Of those charged:

41 were convicted under Terrorism legislation;

183 convicted under other legislation: murder and explosives offences (including conspiracies), grievous bodily harm, firearms offences, fraud, false documents offences, etc (this includes the 12 cautions detailed above);

114 at or awaiting trial.

The Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Office are currently working with the National Coordinator for Terrorist Investigations to improve the quality of data relating to those arrested, charged, convicted and imprisoned under terrorist legislation and under other legislation but considered terrorist related. As soon as this is complete a Statistical Bulletin covering this information will be published by the Home Office. The bulletin will provide a breakdown of charges and convictions of terrorism related offences.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on terrorism: detainees, with what offences the individuals held for over 14 days and then charged were charged; and how many *(a)* have been convicted, *(b)* offences have been acquitted and *(c)* remain subject to trial. [243618]

Jacqui Smith: To date 11 individuals have been held over 14 days. Eight of these individuals were charged.

14-15 days

One individual charged with having information about an act of terrorism (section 38B, Terrorism Act 2000). This case was subsequently dismissed by a judge due to insufficient evidence.

18-19 days

One individual charged with conspiracy to cause explosions (section 3 (1a), the Explosives Substances Act 1883).

19-20 days

Three individuals charged with conspiracy to murder (section 1 (1), Criminal Law Act 1977) and Preparation of Terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006). The latter charge has subsequently been amended by the Crown Prosecution Service for two of the individuals to a charge of conspiracy to commit an act of violence likely to endanger the safety of an aircraft (section 1(1), Criminal Law Act 1977).

27-28 days

One individual charged with preparation of terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006).

One individual charged with preparation of terrorist Acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006), possession of a prohibited weapon (section 5(1), Firearms Act 1968), possession of ammunition (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968), possession of a silencer without a firearms licence (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968). The charge of preparation of terrorist acts for the second individual was subsequently amended by the Crown Prosecution Service to a charge of conspiracy to commit an act of violence likely to endanger the safety of an aircraft (section 1(1), Criminal Law Act 1977).

One individual charged with attending a place for instruction or training in terrorism (section 8, Terrorism Act 2006) and collection of information (section 58 (1) (a), Terrorism Act 2000).

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* have been charged with criminal offences, *(b)* have been convicted, *(c)* have been acquitted and *(d)* remain subject to trial as a result of Operation Overt in August 2006. [243676]

Jacqui Smith: 17 individuals were charged as a result of Operation Overt.

In November 2006, two individuals who were charged with failure to disclose information had their cases dismissed by a judge who decided there was no case to answer.

One individual was convicted in September 2007.

During the trial which concluded in September 2008, three individuals were found guilty of Conspiracy to Murder Persons Unknown. These three previously pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Cause Explosions and Conspiracy to Commit a Public Nuisance. A further four people pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit a Public Nuisance. A decision is due shortly on a retrial of these seven individuals. One individual was found not guilty at this trial.

Additionally, a further six people await trial.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 37W, on terrorism: detainees, with what offences the individuals held for between 27 to 28 days and not released without charge were charged. [243693]

Jacqui Smith: To date 11 individuals have been held for over 14 days, three were charged on the 27-28 day.

One individual charged with preparation of terrorist acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006).

One individual charged with preparation of terrorist acts (section 5, Terrorism Act 2006), possession of a prohibited weapon (section 5(1), Firearms Act 1968), possession of ammunition (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968), possession of a silencer without a firearms licence (section 1 (1b), Firearms Act 1968). The charge of preparation of terrorist acts for the second individual was subsequently amended by the Crown Prosecution Service to a charge of conspiracy to commit an act of violence likely to endanger the safety of an aircraft (section 1(1), Criminal Law Act 1977).

One individual charged with attending a place for instruction or training in terrorism (section 8, Terrorism Act 2006) and collection of information (section 58 (1) (a), Terrorism Act 2000).

Thames Valley Police

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime clear-up rates for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* robbery, *(c)* burglary in a dwelling, *(d)* theft of a motor vehicle and *(e)* theft from a vehicle were in the Thames Valley police area in each of the last 10 years, broken down by basic command unit. [244372]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following table. Data at Basic Command Unit level (BCU) are only available from 1999-2000 and the BCUs within the Thames Valley police force area were re-structured in 2005-06. In addition, detection rates data are subject to wide variation where small numbers are involved.

Non-sanction detections that contribute to detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many forces away from recording detections of crime where no further action is taken. For this reason overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances.

Clear up rates for selected offences recorded in the Basic Command Units in Thames Valley

Percentage cleared up

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Violence against the person									
Aylesbury Vale	83	73	72	59	57	52	n/a	n/a	n/a
Berkshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53	45	41
Berkshire West							54	45	44
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	59	49	46
Chiltern Vale	68	63	67	58	56	52	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes	73	77	72	68	48	57	64	50	45
Northern Oxfordshire	74	79	79	79	70	64	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	62	74	73	61	52	54	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	62	55	47
Reading and Wokingham	52	60	61	50	39	43	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slough and District	70	63	66	58	37	46	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southern Oxfordshire	60	74	76	67	58	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Forest	70	70	66	57	55	51	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Berkshire	90	90	83	64	61	59	n/a	n/a	n/a
Robbery									
Aylesbury Vale	36	44	22	31	37	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
Berkshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	19	16
Berkshire West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	19	18
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21	16	16
Chiltern Vale	27	20	31	34	30	31	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes	25	23	26	34	25	33	21	17	23
Northern Oxfordshire	29	48	49	52	26	27	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	25	30	30	33	28	26	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	28	28	27
Reading and Wokingham	16	22	22	26	25	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slough and District	24	16	19	19	16	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southern Oxfordshire	23	45	32	44	43	39	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Forest	25	22	31	29	27	30	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Berkshire	26	38	43	37	30	21	n/a	n/a	n/a
Burglary in a dwelling									
Aylesbury Vale	21	17	16	21	12	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Berkshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	19	9
Berkshire West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13	13	13
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	13	7
Chiltern Vale	14	8	14	13	16	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes	16	19	20	18	12	24	13	20	8
Northern Oxfordshire	22	21	19	21	14	14	n/a	n/a	n/a

Clear up rates for selected offences recorded in the Basic Command Units in Thames Valley

Percentage cleared up

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*[1]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Oxford	19	26	32	28	18	36	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	17	18
Reading and Wokingham	14	11	16	16	13	17	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slough and District	11	22	19	17	12	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southern Oxfordshire	17	16	40	21	22	16	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Forest	12	14	17	19	14	12	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Berkshire	20	24	18	22	18	23	n/a	n/a	n/a
Theft of a motor vehicle									
Aylesbury Vale	17	22	25	19	14	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Berkshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	11	12
Berkshire West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	11	16
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	16	12
Chiltern Vale	8	14	13	16	16	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes	12	25	27	21	14	15	16	12	23
Northern Oxfordshire	18	23	26	30	21	24	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	10	20	22	48	22	24	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	31	20	20
Reading and Wokingham	8	11	14	13	16	14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slough and District	8	8	15	16	11	14	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southern Oxfordshire	15	17	23	23	13	24	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Forest	16	15	15	23	15	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Berkshire	18	20	16	18	22	20	n/a	n/a	n/a
Theft from a vehicle									
Aylesbury Vale	12	14	4	4	5	27	n/a	n/a	n/a
Berkshire East	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	6	5
Berkshire West	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	3	6
Buckinghamshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12	7	6
Chiltern Vale	3	4	4	3	12	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes	9	6	17	11	6	10	4	7	8
Northern Oxfordshire	7	10	7	6	11	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxford	5	16	35	16	17	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Oxfordshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	9	10
Reading and Wokingham	2	3	4	5	4	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Slough and District	2	3	4	11	3	9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southern Oxfordshire	7	6	8	6	8	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thames Forest	3	7	13	18	18	18	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Berkshire	5	7	7	4	4	12	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Theft: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of car thefts. [244560]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There has been a significant and sustained reduction in vehicle crime. Since 1997 all vehicle crime is down by 57 per cent. The police recorded a 5 per cent. decrease in the number of cars stolen between 2006-07 and 2007-08. This decrease is also reflected in the British Crime Survey for 2007-08 which shows a reduction of 11 per cent. for vehicle-related thefts compared with 2006-07.

Maintaining this reduction is important, but our strategy reflects the success to date and the maturity of practice in this area. The Crime Strategy outlines our approach that Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships and other local partners should focus on the issues of greatest priority in each locality through local area agreements. As part of the local area agreement process 98 of the 150 local areas have chosen serious acquisitive crime, of which vehicle crime is an important component, as one of their key priorities for improvement. Central Government are also held to account through Public Service Agreement 23 which measures the progress in tackling serious acquisitive crime.

Theft: Retail Trade

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of retail theft. [244562]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2007, the Home Office set up the National Retail Crime Steering Group, to provide a forum for retailers to raise issues of concern with Government and devise strategies for tackling retail

crime. Current issues the group is addressing include ensuring Penalty Notices for Disorder are issued appropriately and consistently, developing and disseminating good practice guidance for local retailers and crime reduction partnerships to work more effectively together, and designing a new Commercial Victimisation Survey. The introduction of neighbourhood policing teams will also ensure that retailers concerns are reflected in local policing priorities. This will be backed up by guidance from the National Police Improvement Agency, and the reforms set out in the Policing Green Paper 'From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities together' to give local people, including businesses, a greater say in how their neighbourhoods are policed.

UK Border Agency: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost implications for the UK Border Agency are of the London Olympics in 2012. [241607]

Jacqui Smith: Work is continuing to finalise the strategy and plans for the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Any decisions will need to take account of operational needs, affordability within the total funding envelope and the need to secure value for money.

UK Border Agency: Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners in England and Wales were released into the custody of the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each of the last 12 months. [244481]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee with all of the most robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign criminals, including updates on the numbers of such individuals who are subject to deportation action and are detained following completion of their custodial sentence in order to facilitate their eventual deportation. In her letter of 23 July she advised the Committee that there were around 1,650 such individuals who were detained beyond their sentence under immigration powers. Copies of all of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

UK Border Agency: Working Hours

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency (UKBA) enforcement operations have taken place on Saturdays or Sundays in each month of 2008, broken down by each UKBA region. [243117]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency adopts an intelligence-led approach to operations. The number of UK Border Agency enforcement operations that have taken place on Saturdays or Sundays in each month to end September 2008, broken down by each region of the UK Border Agency is detailed in the following table.

The data provided are management information. They may be subject to change and do not represent published national statistics.

	Saturday/Sunday operations by month, 2008									
Command	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*Total*
London and South East (L and SE)	193	161	212	28	34	56	76	45	26	831
Midlands and Eastern (M and E)	40	33	39	7	8	14	10	15	9	175
North East (NE)	33	23	22	7	16	22	8	13	5	149
North West (NW)	32	14	24	8	11	12	6	10	8	125
Scotland and Northern Ireland (S and NI)	10	11	14	12	11	11	8	14	5	96
South West and Wales (SW and W)	0	2	2	5	4	0	6	0	0	19
Total	308	244	313	67	84	115	114	97	53	1,395

Note:
All data are sourced from the National Operations Database (NOD) or Crime Management Information (CMI) system. The NOD/CMI is a management information tool and data from it are not quality assured under National Statistics protocols. Figures provided from the NOD/CMI do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional.

Vetting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time to process Criminal Records Bureau checks in each police force area was in the latest period for which information is available. [246843]

Meg Hillier: Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure by police force area are not a performance target and are not collated by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28-days.

Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since any forces' performance can be affected by a number of factors; the volume of cases sent to a force to process in any given month, the number of staff available to process the checks and the IT resources on hand to forces. With these variables, performance can fluctuate within individual forces from one month to the next.

However, you may be interested to note that comparative police force performance data can be found on the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk.

Work Permits: Foreign Workers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted work permits in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* duration of work permit. [244722]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permits granted broken down by the country of origin and the duration of the work permit:

Applications granted for period 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008, broken down by nationality and duration of work permit

	Months						
Nationality	*0-12*	*12-24*	*24-36*	*36-48*	*48-60*	*Over 60*	*Total*
Afghanistan	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	15	0	35
Albania	25	5	5	5	30	0	70
Algeria	40	25	15	5	40	0	120
Angola	30	10	[1]	[1]	[1]	0	45
Antigua and Barbuda	[1]	0	0	0	[1]	0	5
Argentina	1,395	115	30	10	90	0	1,600
Armenia	15	5	[1]	[1]	5	0	25
Australia	2,040	1,040	620	345	2,190	5	6,245
Azerbaijan	25	10	5	5	30	0	75
Bahamas, The	[1]	[1]	0	0	5	0	5
Bahrain	10	[1]	0	[1]	10	0	20
Bangladesh	175	110	65	45	330	[1]	725
Barbados	45	5	[1]	5	15	[1]	70
Belarus	65	30	5	5	80	[1]	185
Belize	[1]	0	0	0	5	0	5
Benin	[1]	0	0	0	[1]	0	5
Bolivia	20	5	[1]	0	10	0	35
Bosnia - Herzegovina	15	15	5	0	10	0	45
Botswana	20	10	5	10	45	0	90
Brazil	745	185	105	30	260	[1]	1,320
British National Overseas	35	55	30	10	155	[1]	285
British Overseas Citz.	[1]	0	0	[1]	5	0	5
Brunei	5	[1]	0	5	[1]	0	10
Bulgaria	1,510	45	20	5	165	5	1,750
Burkina	5	[1]	0	0	0	0	5
Burundi	5	0	[1]	0	[1]	0	5
Cambodia	5	0	0	0	[1]	0	5
Cameroon	40	20	10	15	70	0	160
Canada	2,560	460	275	130	880	5	4,310
Cape Verde	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Chad	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
Chile	90	25	10	5	20	0	150
China	1,655	1,260	525	355	3,750	5	8,090
Colombia	205	55	20	10	135	[1]	430
Comoros	0	0	[1]	0	0	0	[1]
Congo	25	10	[1]	0	5	0	45
Costa Rica	5	5	[1]	0	10	0	20
Croatia	85	20	15	5	90	[1]	210
Cuba	245	5	[1]	5	5	0	260
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
Djibouti	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]
Dominica	15	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	0	25
Dominican Republic	5	[1]	[1]	[1]	5	0	15
Ecuador	15	5	0	[1]	15	0	35
Egypt	300	80	40	20	155	[1]	595
El Salvador	5	[1]	[1]	0	5	0	10
Eritrea	0	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]
Estonia	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]
Ethiopia	35	5	5	[1]	10	0	95
Fiji	10	5	5	0	[1]	0	20
Gabon	15	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	15
Gambia, The	10	5	[1]	[1]	15	0	40
Georgia	25	10	[1]	[1]	15	0	50
Ghana	210	105	40	70	325	[1]	955
Grenada	15	0	[1]	[1]	5	0	20
Guatemala	5	5	[1]	0	5	0	10
Guinea	50	0	0	0	5	0	55

Applications granted for period 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008, broken down by nationality and duration of work permit

	Months						
Nationality	*0-12*	*12-24*	*24-36*	*36-48*	*48-60*	*Over 60*	*Total*
Guinea-Bissau	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	0	[redacted]
Guyana	15	5	5	15	65	[redacted]	105
Haiti	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	5
Honduras	5	0	5	5	[redacted]	0	15
Hungary	0	0	0	0	[redacted]	0	[redacted]
India	16,285	19,250	2,600	930	10,875	10	49,950
Indonesia	80	30	15	5	70	[redacted]	200
Iran	155	75	35	15	250	0	530
Iraq	35	25	5	[redacted]	35	0	100
Israel	320	80	45	25	140	0	610
Ivory Coast	35	0	[redacted]	[redacted]	10	0	50
Jamaica	745	90	45	95	195	[redacted]	1,170
Japan	1,065	595	430	215	1,365	5	3,640
Jordan	35	25	10	5	60	0	135
Kazakhstan	60	45	20	5	50	0	180
Kenya	145	95	55	35	330	[redacted]	665
Kosovo	5	5	0	0	[redacted]	0	5
Kuwait	25	5	5	0	5	0	40
Kyrgyzstan	[redacted]	5	[redacted]	[redacted]	15	0	20
Latvia	5	0	0	0	[redacted]	0	5
Lebanon	90	60	20	20	140	0	330
Lesotho	5	[redacted]	5	5	25	0	45
Liberia	0	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	5
Libya	30	5	[redacted]	5	20	0	65
Lithuania	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	0	[redacted]
Macedonia	10	10	[redacted]	[redacted]	15	0	40
Madagascar	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	5
Malawi	35	5	5	10	65	0	120
Malaysia	415	315	160	80	1,135	[redacted]	2,110
Maldives	5	[redacted]	0	0	[redacted]	0	5
Mali	70	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	75
Mauritania	5	0	0	[redacted]	5	0	10
Mauritius	50	45	40	60	355	[redacted]	555
Mexico	260	60	45	20	160	0	545
Moldova	340	10	5	[redacted]	10	0	370
Monaco	0	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	[redacted]
Mongolia	20	25	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	50
Montenegro	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	0	[redacted]	0	35
Morocco	155	25	15	5	65	0	265
Mozambique	15	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	20
Burma	45	25	10	5	75	0	160
Namibia	10	5	[redacted]	5	25	0	40
Nepal	50	170	95	40	520	[redacted]	885
New Zealand	605	230	175	130	670	5	1,810
Nicaragua	5	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	[redacted]	0	10
Niger	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Nigeria	395	160	110	90	1,150	[redacted]	1,870
Korea (North)	[redacted]	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	[redacted]
Oman	15	[redacted]	[redacted]	5	[redacted]	0	20
Pakistan	565	560	285	215	1,645	[redacted]	3,270
Occupied Palestinian Territories	10	10	5	0	20	0	45
Panama	5	0	0	[redacted]	5	0	10
Papua New Guinea	5	[redacted]	0	0	[redacted]	0	5
Paraguay	5	0	0	0	5	0	10
Peru	25	10	5	[redacted]	20	0	60
Philippines	735	685	430	335	3,015	[redacted]	5,010
Qatar	5	[redacted]	5	0	[redacted]	0	10
Romania	440	75	60	20	315	5	910
Russia	1,545	310	110	50	505	5	2,525
Rwanda	15	[redacted]	0	0	[redacted]	0	20
Samoa	5	5	10	5	0	0	20
Sao Tome and Principe	[redacted]	0	0	0	0	0	[redacted]
Saudi Arabia	55	20	5	[redacted]	20	0	100
Senegal	175	5	[redacted]	[redacted]	10	0	195

Applications granted for period 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008, broken down by nationality and duration of work permit

	Months						
Nationality	0-12	13-24	24-36	36-48	48-60	Over 60	Total
Serbia	65	30	5	10	60	0	195
Seychelles	0	0	[1]	5	5	0	10
Sierra Leone	5	[1]	[1]	5	20	0	35
Singapore	160	90	55	30	265	0	600
Slovakia	[1]	0	0	0	0	0	[1]
Somalia	[1]	[1]	0	0	0	0	[1]
South Africa	1,375	640	320	310	2,220	5	4,870
Korea (South)	240	180	70	60	390	[1]	950
Sri Lanka	330	145	65	40	605	[1]	1,185
St. Kitts and Nevis	10	0	0	0	5	0	15
St. Lucia	20	[1]	[1]	[1]	20	0	45
St. Vincent	5	5	[1]	[1]	10	0	25
Sudan	40	25	5	5	25	0	100
Suriname	[1]	[1]	0	0	[1]	0	5
Swaziland	[1]	[1]	5	[1]	20	0	30
Switzerland	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Syria	30	15	15	5	50	0	115
Tajikistan	5	0	0	[1]	5	0	10
Tanzania	50	15	10	5	40	0	125
Thailand	170	210	45	25	650	0	1,100
Togo	5	5	0	[1]	5	0	15
Tonga	5	[1]	5	[1]	0	0	10
Trinidad and Tobago	95	50	15	25	145	0	325
Tunisia	30	20	5	[1]	40	0	95
Turkey	305	145	75	30	325	0	895
Turkmenistan	0	[1]	0	0	5	0	5
Uganda	100	25	10	15	80	0	230
Ukraine	305	190	45	25	220	0	780
United Arab Emirates	10	[1]	[1]	0	5	[1]	15
United States	20,985	2,610	1,135	465	3,635	10	28,835
Uruguay	20	10	5	0	5	0	40
Uzbekistan	15	5	5	[1]	30	0	55
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	[1]	0	[1]
Venezuela	75	20	10	10	85	0	205
Vietnam	65	30	20	5	90	[1]	210
Yemen	5	[1]	0	0	[1]	0	10
Zambia	25	10	15	15	190	0	255
Zimbabwe	250	105	90	235	1,300	0	1,970
Total	61,870	31,475	8,815	4,900	43,880	85	151,635

[1] Indicates figure of one or two.

Notes:
1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures cover the period 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008 and include all granted work permit applications. This excludes members of group applications, dependants and all other categories of permit.

The figures are for work permits issued, some applicants will still need to gain entry clearance and some may decide not to take up their posts.

TREASURY

Afghanistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisation has managed each project funded by his Department in Helmand province since 2005; what the budget of each was; how much has been spent in each case; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [245777]

Yvette Cooper: HM Treasury has not directly funded any projects in Afghanistan. The Treasury allocates funding to other Departments including the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development.

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will review the proposed boundaries for new rates of air passenger duty to provide that Larnaca airport, Cyprus, falls in the same band as Paphos airport; and if he will make a statement; [245061]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of charging different rates of air passenger duty for travel to Cyprus via Paphos and Larnaca on *(a)* the prevalence of air travel to those airports and *(b)* the Cyprus economy and tourist industry; and if he will make a statement. [245164]

Angela Eagle: All destinations in Cyprus fall within the same air passenger duty distance band (band A).

Bank Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of people over the age of 18 years who do not have a bank account; and if he will make a statement. [245432]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to reducing financial exclusion and increasing the number of people who can manage their money by using a bank account.

The Family Resources Survey data for 2006-07, published in June this year, show that the number of adults living without access to a bank account fell from 2.8 million in 2002-03 to 2.1 million in 2006-07.

Bank Services: Small Businesses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's policy on bank recapitalisation on the availability of credit to the small and medium-sized enterprise sector in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [244232]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1189W.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government have taken to aid banks in providing capital to businesses. [245467]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October 2008 the Government announced a comprehensive package of measures to support stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer.

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. The Government expect banks to restore and maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively priced lending to SMEs, at a level at least equivalent to that of 2007, until the end of 2011.

UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, will also oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, including in relation to SME lending.

British small businesses should also be able to benefit from around £4 billion of lending from the European Investment Bank (EIB) between 2008 and 2011. As announced in the pre-Budget report in November 2008, after negotiations between UK banks and the EIB, £1 billion of EIB funds were approved by the end of last year to be available to British small firms. The Government continue to work with UK banks and the EIB on the use of EIB loans to deliver the most effective support to small firms with sound business propositions. It is a condition for banks participating in the Government's recapitalisation scheme to seek EIB Loans for SMEs.

Furthermore the Government announced a package of support to help smaller businesses at the Pre-budget report 2008. This package included the establishment of the Small Business Finance Scheme, an Export Credits Guarantee Department scheme, and the equity or quasi-equity capital fund. When combined this package will facilitate over £2 billion of extra support to SMEs experiencing short-term financial difficulties.

Banks

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates he held meetings with *(a)* HBOS, *(b)* Nationwide, *(c)* Abbey, *(d)* Lloyds TSB, *(e)* Northern Rock, *(f)* Barclays, *(g)* RBS and *(h)* HSBC on the Government's repossessions policy before its announcement on 3 December 2008. [245608]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken to monitor the effects of recapitalisation of major British banks. [245471]

Ian Pearson: The Government's investment are managed on a commercial basis by UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI), a company which is wholly owned by the Government. Its overarching objectives will be to protect and create value for the taxpayer as a shareholder, with due regard to financial stability and acting in a way that promotes competition.

Banks: Iceland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken to ensure that loans to Iceland from the European Union and International Monetary Fund are used to compensate UK depositors in Icelandic banks; and if he will make a statement. [244133]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1880W.

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received on the determination by the US Administration on 17 December 2008 that Assa Corporation is created and controlled by Bank Melli; and whether he has made representations to the relevant Channel Islands authorities on the operations in Jersey of Assa Company Ltd and its subsidiaries. [246397]

Ian Pearson: HM Government are currently liaising with the US Administration on their determination that Assa Corporation is created and controlled by Bank Melli and with the relevant Jersey authorities on this issue.

The Jersey Financial Services Commission is coordinating the Jersey investigation and focusing on the part played by any Jersey Company which may have conducted business with Assa Corporation, Assa Company Ltd or Bank Melli.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on requirements on banks whose shares are in public ownership to support small businesses. [242346]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require those banks in receipt of public money to increase liquidity to include representatives of the banking trades unions on their remuneration committees. [244302]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, will oversee the conditions attached to subscribing to the Government's recapitalisation fund, including in relation to remuneration policies of banks board directors.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government has taken to reform regulation of the financial markets. [245469]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement on financial markets made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-23, which announced that Adair Turner, the Chairman of the FSA, had been asked to make recommendations for reforms.

Banks: Taxation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of tax avoided by British banks through offshore tax regimes in the last 12 months. [244997]

Mr. Timms: No estimates have been made in the past 12 months of the tax gap attributable to offshore tax regimes. In March 2008, HMRC released details of some analysis from 2005 that attempted to derive estimates of the direct tax gap at the start of the decade—see

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/direct-tax-gaps.pdf.

This included a very broad-brush estimate of the tax gap associated with the use of offshore accounts.

Child Benefit

Lyn Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of claims for child benefit made by *(a)* EU nationals excluding A2 and A8 nationals, *(b)* A2 and A8 nationals and *(c)* those with indefinite leave to remain took longer than 36 days to be processed since April 2008; [243402]

(2) what the average processing time was for claims for child benefit by *(a)* EU nationals excluding A2 and A8 nationals, *(b)* A2 and A8 nationals and *(c)* those with indefinite leave to remain in each month since April 2008; [243403]

(3) what his Department's target times are for processing child benefit claims; and what percentage of cases involving *(a)* the transfer of a claim from one carer to another *(b)* non-UK EU citizens, A2 and A8 nationals and *(c)* those with indefinite leave to remain were processed within those target times in the latest period for which information are available; [243404]

(4) what the average processing time was for claims for child benefit by entitled *(a)* non-UK EU and *(b)* other foreign nationals in each month since April 2008; [243406]

(5) what percentage of child benefit claims were processed within *(a)* five days and *(b)* 36 days in each month since April 2008; [243407]

(6) what the average time taken to process child benefit claims where the claim was being transferred from one carer to another was in each month since April 2008; and what percentage of claims of that type took longer than 36 days to process since April 2008. [243408]

Mr. Timms: For 2008-09, HM Revenue and Customs aim to pay 69 per cent. of child benefit claims in nine working days and aim to pay all new child benefit claims in an average of 20 calendar days. This is the first year that this target has been in place. Performance outturn for 2008-09 will be published in due course.

More complex claims, including those from customers arriving from abroad, often require HMRC to make more detailed inquiries, and so HMRC are normally unable to process and pay them within the usual target times. The HMRC Helpline can provide advice about expected waiting times to customers chasing progress of their claims

Information on the number of claims processed in 36 days, since April 2008, is not available and I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W.

The other information requested relating to non-UK citizens would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Child Tax Credit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many awards of child tax credit were made for *(a)* 2001-02 and *(b)* 2002-03; and what estimate he has made of the number of eligible claimants in each of those years. [246789]

Ian Pearson: Child and working tax credits were not introduced until April 2003.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance manuals the Valuation Office Agency has produced to assist in the use of the council tax banding support tool. [245962]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency, in conjunction with the system software provider, has produced two manuals to be used for training and guidance covering the main functions of the council tax banding support tool.

Currency

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the performance of sterling; what comparative assessment he has made of the performance of the euro; and if he will make a statement. [244780]

Ian Pearson: The Government continue to monitor the value of sterling against other currencies, but does not comment on short-term exchange rate movements since this may have undesirable effects on their stability. The Government's objective is for a stable and competitive exchange rate in the medium term.

Data Protection

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many confirmed data security breaches there have been in his Department in the last three years; and what steps were taken in response to each such occurrence. [244667]

Angela Eagle: No data security breaches have been recorded by the Treasury in the last three years.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244718]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated.

(b) In respect of e-mails, this could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to respond to the letters dated 10 July 2008 and 13 August 2008 from the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Banff and Buchan on fuel costs and farming industry; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [245911]

Angela Eagle: It is understood that this relates to correspondence from Stewart Stevenson MSP. Receipt of the correspondence could not be traced and a copy, dated 9 June, was obtained. A reply was sent on 6 January.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245330]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

(a) All suppliers to The Treasury that are required to handle relevant data have been contacted and made aware of the Government's security standards. All have been assessed as having policies and procedures that are compliant with those standards.

(b) The UK DMO have identified all the suppliers involved in data handling procedures. All of these suppliers (100 per cent.) have been assessed as appropriate to comply with the Government's security standards.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245351]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury has one supplier that stores personal data abroad. The contractor provides travel agency services under a pan-Government framework owned by OGCbuying.solutions and the data are stored in the USA under a safe harbour agreement.

The Debt Management Office holds one contract that it manages on behalf of the Treasury, which allows the storage of personal data of UK citizens overseas. This contract is for the Gilt Registration Service and states that personal data must be kept within the European Economic Area (EEA). Currently all these data are stored within the UK.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245371]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's senior information risk owner is a range G (equivalent to Grade 3) and has held the responsibility since December 2007.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244603]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury is committed to improving energy efficiency of the Department's estate and reducing energy use year on year. Measures taken over the last year that have led to improvements in energy efficiency include adjustment of lighting system controls, switching

to daytime cleaning, reducing the need for lighting after hours, and adjusting the temperature when heating is turned on.

Detailed information on the Treasury energy consumption by building can be found in HM Treasury annual report 2007-08.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246016]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury holds the following information on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability of its employees:

staff in post

applicants for employment, training and promotion

results of performance assessment procedures

grievance procedures disciplinary procedures

staff who cease employment

In September 2007 the Treasury began collecting diversity-monitoring data on sexual orientation and the religion or belief of employees.

The Treasury reports, to the Cabinet Office, on the Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its work force 2005-08 and has set new diversity targets for 2009-11.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244356]

Angela Eagle: For information on the country of origin of furniture products purchased by the Department, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1552W by the former Financial Secretary (Mr. Healey). A search of the Department's accounting records failed to reveal any payments having been made to Remploy since 2002-03. Information on payments prior to that date could be provided only at disproportionate costs due to the introduction of a new accounting system.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246642]

Angela Eagle: There have been no complaints made about advertisements sponsored or funded by the Treasury in each year from 1997 to 2008.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246660]

Angela Eagle: Details of expert advisers appointed by the Treasury may be found where appropriate on its website. Advisers commissioned by Treasury are expected to comply with the Nolan Principles. Where appropriate, advisers have made a declaration of political activity. The Debt Management Office has appointed no expert advisers.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies for public access to services. [246982]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not use 0845 numbers.

The UK Debt Management Office has 17 0845 telephone numbers that appear on its website and are therefore generally available for use by callers. Their purpose is business continuity-related.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the last three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242123]

Angela Eagle: The number of paid work experience and internship placements offered in each of the last three years is as follows:

	Number of placements	*Average weekly remuneration (£)*
2006-07	37	313
2007-08	27	322
2008-09	34	335

Placement students work on average 36 hours per week and are all involved in work related to economics. It is not possible to state how many were in full-time education or how many did not complete their period of work experience.

Information on unpaid work experience is not recorded centrally and cannot therefore be provided.

Derbyshire Offshore

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken by the Financial Services Authority to safeguard depositors in the Derbyshire Building Society's Isle of Man subsidiary. [246802]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W.

Economic Situation: EC Countries

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he is taking to establish close working practices with EU partners in order to facilitate co-operative efforts to overcome the economic downturn. [244665]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Treasury Ministers attend regular meetings of EU Ministers, including the Council of Economic and Finance Ministers (ECOFIN). These discussions cover a wide range of issues including discussion of co-ordination among EU member states.

Equitable Life

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he has not responded to the Ombudsman's report on Equitable Life; and when he expects to do so. [246164]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 261W.

EU Budget

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total gross amount paid to the EU budget was by each EU member state in the last year for which figures are available. [246688]

Ian Pearson: Details of each member state's gross contributions, after taking account of the UK abatement, can be found Tables 2A (euro) and 2B (sterling) (pages 48 and 50) of the 2008 European Community Finances White Paper (Cm 7462) published on 10 September 2008.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to reduce the level of the UK's net contribution to the EU budget until the level of UK debt is reduced to below the average of EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [246689]

Ian Pearson: The Government are committed to radical reform of the EU budget, including the common agricultural policy as set out in "Global Europe: vision for a 21st century budget" published on 19 June 2008.

EU Grants and Loans

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* quantity of loans funded from the European Investment Bank made to UK companies in (i) November 2008 and (ii) December 2008; and what estimate he has made of the value and quantity of such loans in (A) January 2009 and (B) February 2009. [246765]

Ian Pearson: The European Investment Bank (EIB) publishes data and status information on individual loans on its public website (www.eib.org). The status of a loan can fall into one of three stages: (1) under appraisal; (2) approved by the Board of Directors of the EIB; and (3) signed by borrower and the EIB.

Based on information that is available in the public domain:

in November 2008, the EIB signed five finance contracts with UK companies, totalling €689,570,509; and

in December 2008, the EIB signed six finance contracts with UK companies, totalling €1,292,257,485.

Looking forward, based again on information that is currently publicly available:

there are 11 EIB loan applications by UK companies, totalling £1,929 million, approved by the EIB's Board of Directors and now awaiting final signature; and

there are a further eight EIB loan applications by UK companies, totalling approximately £1,810 million, currently under appraisal.

The exact timing of the approval and signature stages is subject to the conclusion of confidential negotiations between the EIB and borrower.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the effect on the price of *(a)* a pint of beer, *(b)* a bottle of wine and *(c)* a bottle of spirits of the measures announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 in each year to 2011-12; [240865]

(2) what economic *(a)* assumptions and *(b)* formula his Department uses to calculate the effects of alcohol duty on the price of a (i) pint of beer, (ii) bottle of wine and (iii) bottle of spirits. [240866]

Angela Eagle: The effect of the PBR 2008 measures on the price of a pint of beer, a 75cl bottle of wine and a 70cl bottle of spirits is estimated to be:

	Beer	*Wine*	*Pence Spirits*
2008-09	-1	+ 1	-12
2009-10[1]	-1	+2	-11
2009-10[2]	+3	+ 14	+28
2010-11	+4	+15	+29
2011-12	+4	+ 15	+31

[1] April to December. [2] January to March.

These estimates are based on HM Treasury's projections of retail price inflation and the producer prices index as well as average prices and strengths calculated using market data. They include VAT and duty measures.

The calculation of the expected effect of changes in duty rate on consumer demand for excise goods assumes that any change in duty is passed on in full to consumers. See paragraph A.2.3 of the Financial Statement and Budget Report (FSBR) 2008. Website address:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08 completereport.pdf.

The following formulae are used to measure the effect of alcohol duty on typical items of alcohol:

(i) Pint of beer—Duty/100*0.568*4.2 (assumes that a pint is 0.568 litres and the average strength of a pint of beer is 4.2 per cent.).

(ii) 75cl Bottle of wine—Duty/100*0.75

(iii) 70cl Bottle of Spirits—Duty*0.7*0.3877 (assumes the average strength of a bottle of spirits is 38.77 per cent.).

Average strengths have been calculated using market data.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to increase the accountability to Parliament of the Financial Services Authority. [244310]

Ian Pearson: The FSA is accountable to Parliament, the Treasury, the public and industry in a number of ways including the requirement for the FSA to publish an annual report on the discharge of its functions and the extent to which its regulatory objectives have been met.

Government Departments: Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to reduce energy waste on the part of Government Departments. [244625]

Angela Eagle: The Government's Delivery Plan for "Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate", published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives that Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. Government have committed to updating the Delivery Plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates will be published on 18 December 2008.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 542W, on housing: valuation, if he will publish the multiple regression methodology which the automated valuation model uses to apply a value significance to the 10,000 localities. [245916]

Mr. Timms: Multiple regression is a statistical technique. Its use by the Valuation Office Agency within automated valuation modelling is subject to commercial confidentiality.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect of falling house prices on the ability of families to meet inheritance tax liabilities when they inherit a home from a deceased parent or relative. [245961]

Mr. Timms: As with the whole tax system, the Government keep the effect of falling house prices on the ability of families to meet inheritance tax liabilities under review.

The Government therefore have two measures in place to address this eventuality of falling house prices affecting the ability to meet inheritance tax liabilities:

While a house remains unsold, the inheritance tax due on it can be paid in instalments for up to 10 years.

Where a house is sold within four years of the death for less than the value on which inheritance tax was paid, the personal representatives can in most cases make a claim for inheritance tax 'loss on sale' relief. The loss on sale relief does not apply if the sale is to a beneficiary or relative of a beneficiary. This is because of the risk of avoidance.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has targets for inheritance tax yields. [246059]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency does not have a target to increase inheritance tax yields.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* any of its agencies has had (i) correspondence and (ii) discussions with (A) Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. and (B) another bank or intermediary relating to the withdrawal by customers of deposits in the 10 days before 8 October 2008. [245434]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Landsbanki: Guernsey

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he or his officials will meet representatives of depositors in Landsbanki Guernsey to discuss the means of recovering their savings. [243800]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Treasury has offered a meeting at officials' level to the Landsbanki Guernsey Depositors Action Group.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Landsbanki Resolution Committee on the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey. [244324]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Engagement with the Landsbanki Resolution Committee on issues relating to the failure of Landsbanki Guernsey is a matter for the administrator of Landsbanki Guernsey and the Government of Guernsey.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Icelandic government on the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey. [244325]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken in response to the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey; and if he will make a statement. [244698]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay) on 6 November, *Official Report*, column 683W.

Loans

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to introduce a national loan guarantee scheme. [245851]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement by the Prime Minister on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 527-28.

The Government have announced a package of measures to ensure the stability of the financial system; protect ordinary savers, depositors, businesses and borrowers; and protect the interests of taxpayers. More information is available on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm.

The Government will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the stability of the financial system.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on borrowing: local authorities, how many local authorities have had their initial applications rejected for not meeting the lending terms in the last three years. [245897]

Angela Eagle: No local authorities have had their loan applications rejected by the Public Works Loan Board for not meeting its lending terms in the last three years.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1084W, on borrowing: local authorities, if he will publish the lending terms that local authorities must meet for applications to borrow to be approved. [245898]

Angela Eagle: The Public Works Loan Board's lending arrangements are displayed on its website,

www.pwlb.gov.uk.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department will reply to the hon. Member for Billericay's letter of 21 October 2008 about his constituent, Mr. S Ford. [246128]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Bournemouth, West of 13 October, 3 November and 11 December 2008 in respect of his constituent Mr Ian Wilson and deposits with Icelandic banks. [246206]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury regrets the delay in replying to the hon. Member and hopes to be in a position to do so shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 28 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms J. Ferneyhough. [246528]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to my right hon. Friend.

Minimum Wage: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fines have been issued to employers in the North West for paying employees at rates below the national minimum wage. [246069]

Mr. Timms: The national minimum wage (NMW) regime of enforcement activity does not include the use of fines for non-payment of national minimum wage. In January 2007, the DTI published the NMW penalty notice policy. In line with this, since February 2007, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has been issuing penalty notices, for those employers who fail to comply with an enforcement notice within 28 days. The Employment Act 2008 will introduce changes, from 6 April 2009, to the NMW enforcement regime, which will see the issue, by HMRC, of financial penalties in most cases of minimum wage non-compliance.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what changes have been made to the tax treatment of lump sum payments made by businesses surrendering onerous leases in the last 12 months. [245978]

Mr. Timms: There have been no recent changes to the tax treatment of lump sum payments made by businesses surrendering onerous leases. Such payments are not an allowable expense in computing trading profits, unless the trade consists of the buying and selling of leases.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246338]

Angela Eagle: The Department does not keep records of the numbers of ex-offenders employed.

All candidates are subject to fair Recruitment and Selection procedures, underpinned by our Equal Opportunities policy and the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). Candidates are assessed according to suitability for the post. During

normal security vetting procedures, the Head of Security will consider the nature of spent and unspent convictions and, so long as no security risk is identified, ex-offenders are not precluded from employment within HM Treasury.

OGCbuying.solutions: Small Businesses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Chancellor will review the threshold turnover level for the Office of Government Commerce's facilities catalogue to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises whose turnover falls below £1 million are not discriminated against in favour of large companies. [245615]

Angela Eagle: OGC guidance recommends that supplier turnover should not be the only consideration when assessing a potential new supplier. There have been no examples in the past two years of any companies being excluded from consideration solely on the basis of turnover when compared with contract value. There are therefore currently no turnover thresholds applied during the procurement process.

Pay As You Earn

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has made of the number of people registered on the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) system who had additional undeclared sources of income in each of the last 12 months; how much uncollected tax revenue this figure represented *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a proportion of the estimated total tax owed by these people through PAYE in each of those months; and what estimate HMRC has made of the value of uncollected income tax as a proportion of the total income tax that was collected through PAYE in each of the last 12 months. [246178]

Mr. Timms: No such estimates have been made.

Personal Records: Databases

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each grade in his Department have access to electronic databases containing personal information relating to members of the public resident in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [244669]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Moss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many Private Finance Initiative schemes were concluded in each of the last 10 years; what their capital value was; what the repayment amount is; and over how many years this is to be repaid; [246703]

(2) how many Private Finance Initiative schemes are in the process of being completed; and what their *(a)* capital value and *(b)* repayment amount is; [246705]

(3) what proportion of Private Finance Initiative schemes are taken into account when calculating the national debt. [246706]

Angela Eagle: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_pfi_stats.cfm

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and whether it is on or off balance sheet; as used by the ONS in calculating public sector net debt.

Public Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much money was allocated to reviving *(a)* coalfield communities, *(b)* steel communities, *(c)* rural communities, *(d)* inner-city areas and *(e)* seaside towns in each of the last 10 years. [244274]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

I have placed in the Library of the House the totals of resource allocations from key programmes for 1997-98 to 2007-08 where such information is available, together with the local authorities that fall within existing definitions of the categories requested. I have also asked the Homes and Communities Agency to write to my hon. Friend separately, setting out the equivalent sums from that Agency's programmes and those of its predecessor bodies over the relevant period. I will ensure a copy of this letter is placed in the Library of the House.

However, not all regeneration and renewal programmes record spend by local authorities such as Regional Development Agency programmes. Some other programmes funds are allocated to consortia of local authorities, and we do not gather information on how those funds are shared between the individual local authorities involved. In addition, Government do not classify English local authorities using all of the categories requested, so information therefore cannot be provided in relation to those categories. Information relating to Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland should be sought from the respective Devolved Administrations.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with Ministers at the *(a)* Department for Transport, *(b)* Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(c)* Department for Communities and Local Government on bringing forward publicly-funded capital works commissioned by these Departments. [244276]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

David Mundell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to lay before Parliament the factual paper on the Barnett formula. [246413]

Yvette Cooper: No date has yet been set for the publication of the factual paper on the Barnett formula.

Public Finance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to table B4 of the Pre-Budget Report, on the fiscal balances compared with Budget 2008, what the figures for the cyclically-adjusted *(a)* surplus on the current budget and *(b)* net borrowing are as a percentage of potential gross domestic product for each year. [245884]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided on to him on 15 December 2008, *Official Report* column 435-36W.

Cyclically adjusted fiscal aggregates are published as a percentage of forecast GDP not potential GDP.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that the Office of Government Commerce ensure that the public sector procurers recognise any pre-qualification scheme that conforms to the core criteria in the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations; and whether he intends to bring forward proposals for a specific scheme. [246866]

Angela Eagle: It is already policy that Government clients involved in the procurement of built environments should ensure that their pre-qualification and tendering processes are appropriate for the project, meet legal obligations and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy and costs for suppliers. This requirement is made mandatory in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) 'Common Minimum Standards for the procurement of built environments'.

The OGC recommends that government construction clients make use of 'Constructionline', a Government-owned pre-qualffication tool that aligns with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, when carrying out their pre-qualification procedures. However, clients may use an alternative mechanism if that is considered appropriate. It is not planned to restrict registration to a specific scheme.

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations legislate the approach required to health and safety on construction sites. The Health and Safety Executive is responsible for any enforcement of those regulations.

Redundancy: Dartford

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to support employees in Dartford facing redundancy in the near future. [246094]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury is working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to take steps to ensure that individuals facing redundancy are helped to move swiftly into a new job. The recent pre-Budget report announced measures which build on the support Jobcentre Plus already has in place. The package included the expansion of Jobcentre Plus rapid response service to target both small and large-scale redundancies, the extension of Train to Gain to provide new training to people before they are made redundant, and the launch of a National Employment Partnership.

The PBR also announced that Jobcentre Plus Regional Ministers will work with regional development agencies to develop plans for co-ordinated responses to large-scale redundancies, as soon as they are notified. "Meeting the economic challenges in every region", published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report, outlined the Government's response to support regions and localities, and sets out how regional partners are working together to focus on meeting the pressing challenges of their regions. More information on the actions that the South East of England Development Agency is taking to meet current economic challenges in the South East can be found at:

www.seeda.co.uk

Revenue and Customs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how inspectors of HM Revenue and Customs are *(a)* incentivised, *(b)* appraised for promotion and *(c)* remunerated. [244911]

Mr. Timms: HMRC inspectors, in common with all HMRC staff below the senior civil service, are subject to a single pay and appraisal system which includes recognition bonuses for exceptional performance, top performance bonuses for those attaining the top marking as part of their annual appraisal, consolidated pay awards, and promotion on merit.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what HM Revenue and Customs' policy is on answering enquiries from hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [245287]

Mr. Timms: HMRC aim to reply to 80 per cent. of all correspondence within 15 working days, and 95 per cent. within 40 days. There is no separate target relating specifically to enquiries from Members of Parliament. Hon. Members can use the dedicated hotlines that HMRC have in place for specific issues, such as the 'MP hotline' for telephone queries about constituents' tax credits claims.

Revenue and Customs: Closures

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates he has made of the potential for savings arising from the proposed closure of HM Revenue in each of the next five years. [242747]

Mr. Timms: Potential estates savings for the next five years for offices in Scotland which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to vacate are estimated as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	3.9
2010-11	7.5
2011-12	9.0
2012-13	9.5
2013-14	9.7

These savings are only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve from the closure of these offices. The main reason for closure is that HMRC will achieve overall business efficiencies by consolidating staff in a smaller number of offices and introducing new and more efficient working practices.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on refitting, repairs and general maintenance of those HM Revenue and Customs offices now earmarked for vacation or closure in each of the last five years, broken down by location. [242767]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average length of time taken by Leeds HM Revenue and Customs office to reply to correspondence from hon. Members in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [245288]

Mr. Timms: HMRC does not keep data in this form.

Revenue and Customs: Southend

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to retain the HM Revenue and Customs office in Southend. [244677]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's latest staffing projections, published in December on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/local/change-programme.htm

indicate that about 1,500 HMRC staff will be needed in Southend by 2011. There are therefore no plans to revisit the decision announced in July 2007 to retain the HMRC office at Alexander house, Southend, which will be able to accommodate that number of staff.

Revenue and Customs: Southend on Sea

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were employed at HM Revenue and Customs offices in Southend in each of the last five years. [243667]

Mr. Timms: The staff in post in Southend on Sea at 1 April for HMRC (and, for 2004 and 2005, the total of staff in HM Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue) is shown in the following table.

As at 1 April:	*Headcount*	*Full time equivalent*
2004	2,491	n/a
2005	2,463	2271.4
2006	2,161	1999.83
2007	2,051	1887.9
2008	1,947	1781.76

These figures do not include staff in the offices at Basildon, Rayleigh or Shoeburyness.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to end the offshore operations of Royal Bank of Scotland. [245313]

Mr. Timms: This is a matter for the directors of the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

The Government's investments in banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme will be managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, "UK Financial Investments Limited" (UKFI). The overarching objectives for UKFI will be to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition. More details can be found in the letter dated 3 November from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which is available in the House of Common's Library.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245723]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury aims to follow the RNIB's "See it Right" guidelines in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will increase the stamp duty holiday threshold to above £175,000; [245872]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the stamp duty holiday in stimulating the market for properties priced below £175,000. [245873]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the reply given by the then Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Kitty Ussher) on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2155W. The aim of the stamp duty holiday announced on 2 September 2008 is to demonstrate Government support for homebuyers at a time of difficult conditions. Data on property transactions can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/survey_of_prop/index.htm.

Tax Allowances: Redundancy

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will raise the tax-free threshold of £30,000 for redundancy payments. [246095]

Mr. Timms: The Government keeps the £30,000 tax exemption for redundancy payments under review along with all other aspects of the tax system.

Tax Allowances: Rented Housing

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to raise the tax-free threshold under the rent-a-room scheme. [246534]

Mr. Timms: There are no plans to raise the tax-free threshold under the rent-a-room scheme.

Tax Avoidance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of levels of tax evasion among white-collar workers; and what steps his Department has taken *(a)* to recover revenue from taxes which have been evaded and *(b)* to reduce levels of evasion. [245840]

Mr. Timms: There are no figures available for the levels of tax evasion by white-collar workers.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the tax system operates fairly and efficiently and clamping down on those who try to cheat the system through evading taxes continues to be a priority. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) risk assess tax returns against their own and third party information and will open an inquiry into those cases where they believe there is a risk of tax evasion.

HMRC continues to improve its approach to tackling evasion. It has made improvements to the identification of evasion through investment in a risk capability and a single referral and escalation mechanism across the taxes. This is underpinned by the recent change in HMRC powers which extends real-time inspection of records to direct taxes as well as a new penalty regime to help deter evasion.

Tax Credit

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been awarded consolatory payments in respect of tax credits by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last five years; what the average size of consolatory payments for tax credit errors was in each of the last five years; what the amount paid for consolatory payments in respect of tax credits was in each of the last five years; on what basis consolatory payments were awarded in that period; and if he will make a statement. [245588]

Mr. Timms: The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will make compensation payments to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet C/FS 'Complaints and Putting Things Right' which is available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheets/complaints-factsheet.pdf.

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of any mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused.

For the number and value of compensation payments made by Tax Credit Office up to the end of 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 5 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1086-87W. Data for 2008-09 will be collated in due course.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases relating to tax credits the Adjudicator's Office has handled under the process assurance procedure in each year for which figures are available; how many of these cases were subsequently referred to the Parliamentary Ombudsman; and if he will make a statement. [245589]

Mr. Timms: The Adjudicator's Office began working cases under the process assurance procedure during 2006-07. The Adjudicator's Office closed 313 PA cases in 2006-07 and 982 in 2007-08. The Adjudicator's Office ceased using this procedure for working tax credit cases in January 2008.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases related to tax credits and resolved since March 2008 the Adjudicator's Office has recommended that *(a)* an overpayment be written off and *(b)* a consolatory payment be made. [245590]

Mr. Timms: From 1 April 2008, 575 tax credit cases have been settled with some or all of the overpayment being written off. There have been consolatory payments in 666 of all tax credit cases seen by the Adjudicator's Office in the same period. The circumstances in which HM Revenue and Customs make compensation payment to its customers are explained in the Department's fact sheet C/FS "Complaints and Putting Things Right" which is available at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/factsheets/complaints-factsheet.pdf.

The Department will pay compensation for reasonable costs incurred as a direct result of any mistakes or delays and to recognise worry and distress caused.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much in relation to tax credits cases the Adjudicator's Office has recommended that HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* pay in compensation to claimants, *(b)* forego in tax and interest and *(c)* write off in overpaid tax credits since March 2008. [245591]

Mr. Timms: From 1 April 2008 the Adjudicator's Office recommended that HMRC pay £108,980 in compensation relating to tax credit claims, and recommended £1,532,272 of overpayment to be written off. Interest is not generally chargeable on tax credits cases. The Adjudicator's Office has not made recommendations with regard to foregoing tax or interest in relation to a tax credit case.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases related to tax credits have been taken on by the Adjudicator's Office since March 2008; and how many of these have been settled. [245592]

Mr. Timms: From 1 April 2008 the Adjudicator's Office has taken on 1,106 tax credit cases and closed 984 tax credit cases. 220 of the tax credits cases closed were taken on this year.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff the Adjudicator's Office employed in each of the last five years; and how many of those worked on tax credit disputes. [245593]

Mr. Timms: There are currently 54 people working in the Adjudicator's Office. At the end of each year there were; 46 people for 2007-08, 45 for 2006-07, 43 for 2005-06, 43 for 2004-05 and 47 for 2003-04. All staff spend some time working on tax credits complaints as well as on other complaints.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit cases taken on by the Adjudicator's Office related to complaints where overpayments had been made due to awards based on incorrect information in each of the last five years; and in how many of those cases the complaint was upheld. [245594]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

Taxation: Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on other countries which have an aviation duty based on *(a)* distance-banding and *(b)* distance-banding where distance is calculated for capital cities. [244328]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* France and the Netherlands have aviation passenger taxes which are similar to the UK's air passenger duty. The Republic of Ireland will introduce a similar tax in March 2009. All of these duties make a distinction based on the final destination of the passenger.

The French have a civil aviation passenger tax and a solidarity passenger tax both of which charge on whether the passenger is flying within Europe or elsewhere. The Netherlands uses a system based on distance to destination from airport of departure and the Irish plan to use distance from Dublin airport.

Taxation: Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 128W, on care vouchers, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the modelling his Department has undertaken of the scheme and *(b)* the work carried out on its cost effectiveness. [246406]

Ian Pearson: The Government set out their assessment of the care voucher scheme in the answer to which the hon. Member refers.

Taxation: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will initiate a leak inquiry into the circumstances whereby details of the new taxation measures in the Pre-Budget Report being published in the national press prior to his statement to the House. [244784]

Angela Eagle: It has been the policy of successive Administrations not to comment on the initiation of, content of, or outcome of internal leak inquiries.

Taxation: Helicopters

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what aviation taxes are imposed on the use of private helicopters; [246824]

(2) how much revenue has been raised by aviation taxes on the use of private helicopters in each year since 1997. [246826]

Angela Eagle: Some helicopter flights, such as those carrying more than 19 chargeable passengers, are liable to air passenger duty.

For all aircraft, including helicopters, duty is payable on aviation gasoline and on aviation turbine fuel used for private pleasure flying.

Figures for the proportion of revenue for these taxes raised from helicopters are not available. There are no other taxes specific to aviation.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what working groups there are in the Valuation Office Agency's Local Taxation and Data and Information Technology divisions. [245963]

Mr. Timms: A large range of activity is undertaken in the Agency's Local Taxation and Data and Information Technology Directorates. No single central record is kept of the various means by which the work is organised. Generally speaking, oversight is delivered through regular management meetings or project boards, rather than through working groups.

Valuation Office: Digital Mapping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1259W, on council tax: valuation, what the monetary value was of payments made to Tenet Technology by the third party representatives of the Valuation Office Agency for goods, licences and services from Tenet which the Valuation Office Agency uses. [245919]

Mr. Timms: The total payments made by the VOA's third party representatives to Tenet Technology is the subject of a contract to which the VOA is not a party.

VAT

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of changes in consumer spending behaviour attributable to the reduction in the rate of value added tax. [245842]

Mr. Timms: An assessment of the impact of the VAT rate cut on projected consumer spending behaviour can be found in paragraphs 2.40 to 2.45 in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. No assessment has been made yet since the reduction took effect.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the extent to which the reduction in the rate of value added tax has met his objectives for the policy. [245844]

Mr. Timms: We have reduced the standard rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. from 1 December 2008 to 31 December 2009 as part of a wider fiscal stimulus. It would be premature to attempt to make an assessment now of the effect of this 13-month reduction in stabilising the economy, but we have met our objective of helping the UK's two million VAT registered businesses to make the change from 1 December, and many have been passing on the reduction to consumers through lower prices from that date.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to encourage businesses to reduce immediately prices in line with the new rate of value added tax. [245845]

Mr. Timms: The Government have called on businesses to pass on the VAT rate reduction through lower prices to help stimulate consumer spending and ensure both

businesses and consumers can benefit from this change. Many businesses have done so, and in the UK's highly competitive retail sector, consumers can choose whether or not to buy from businesses that do not pass the reduction on. But decisions on prices are for businesses rather than Government.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue was raised from value added tax on sales of domestic microgeneration technology of each type in each of the last three financial years; [246284]

(2) how much revenue was raised from value added tax on domestic insulation products in each of the last three financial years. [246287]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT raised from individual goods and services.

VAT: Retail Trade

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations his Department has received about retailers miscalculating the reduction in the rate of value added tax. [245574]

Mr. Timms: We have received representations on a number of issues associated with the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. There is no indication of significant or widespread problems relating to retailers incorrectly applying the change, but Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs is committed to providing guidance and support to any businesses or consumers who are experiencing problems.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to ensure that the reduction in the rate of value added tax is passed on to customers. [245576]

Mr. Timms: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has provided detailed guidance and support to help every VAT registered business apply the new rate of VAT correctly from 1 December 2008. The Government have called on businesses to pass on the VAT rate reduction to consumers through lower prices, and many have responded, but decisions on prices are for businesses rather than Government.

VAT: Small Businesses

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on the cash flows of small businesses of the reductions in the flat rate of value added tax simultaneously with the reduction in the standard rate to 15 per cent. [246760]

Mr. Timms: The purpose of the flat rate scheme is to simplify VAT accounting and no direct assessment of the cash flow effect of changes to the flat rates was made.

Alongside the standard VAT rate reduction, the flat rates were recalculated to ensure they reflect both the rate change and the net VAT paid by small businesses that do not use the flat rate scheme. This avoids distortion of competition between flat rate users and small businesses that opt not to use the scheme.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* staff time of piloting face-to-face visits for tax credit customers in November and December 2008. [246575]

Mr. Timms: HMRC have started rolling out new services from December 2008 to make claiming tax credits easier and quicker. The services offered will depend upon the customer's needs and piloting face-to-face visits for tax credit customers will take place in 2009. The costs and benefits of the pilot will inform a decision on a full roll out of this service.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit claims were ended as a result of relationship breakdown in each month of 2006-07; and what the size of the credit claimed was in each case. [246576]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not readily available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Each year around 150,000 tax credit customers experience a household break-up.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of the increase in the tax credits income disregard from £2,500 to £25,000 in each financial year between 2008-09 and 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [246622]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois), on 7 November 2006, *Official Report* column 1043-44W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of removing the second taper rate of 6.67 per cent. and increasing the first taper rate to *(a)* 46 per cent., *(b)* 45 per cent., *(c)* 44 per cent. and *(d)* 43 per cent. in each of the next five years; if he will estimate the number of people who would no longer be eligible for tax credits in each case; and if he will make a statement. [246623]

Mr. Timms: The estimated saving, in 2009-10 to 2013-14, of increasing the first taper rate of tax credits to each of the rates requested, combined with increasing the second taper rate to 100 per cent. is provided in the following table. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

Effect on expenditure

£ million

1st taper	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*
46 per cent.	-1,550	-1,600	-1,640	-1,750	-1,840
45 per cent.	-1,370	-1,410	-1,450	-1,540	-1,630
44 per cent.	-1,180	-1,210	-1,240	-1,330	-1,400
43 per cent.	-980	-1,010	-1,030	-1,100	-1,160

These changes would not affect the number of claimants eligible for tax credits. However, they would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new claims for tax credits have been made in each of the last 24 months. [246898]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) gave her on 10 December 2008, *Official Report* column 198W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the Government's response to its consultation on the tax credit system. [246900]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) gave her on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*: column 198W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants in the London Borough of Bexley were overpaid tax credits in the last three years for which figures are available. [244754]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the number of families with tax credit awards, including information on overpayments by local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes, for the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are available in the HMRC publications 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments. Geographical Analyses', for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about tax credits the Tax Credit Office has received in each of the last 24 months, broken down by type of communication. [246895]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary (Ian Pearson) gave her on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 198W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the tax credit helpline call centres have caller identification technology in place. [246893]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 December 2008, *Official Report* column 825W.

Working Tax Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the research undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs on the reasons why some people without children do not claim working tax credit. [246582]

Mr. Timms: In 2007, HMRC commissioned a piece of qualitative research looking at the triggers and barriers to the take-up of Working Tax Credit among those without dependent children, in accordance with the Department's policy on publication, the research findings will be published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/

early in 2009.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much and what proportion of working tax credit underpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was subsequently paid in each year since the scheme's introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246611]

(2) how much and what proportion of working tax credit overpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was recovered in each year since the scheme's introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246612]

(3) how much was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid in working tax credits owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since the scheme's introduction; what the average discrepancy per case is; and if he will make a statement; [246613]

(4) how many and what proportion of working tax credit claims were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since the scheme's introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246614]

(5) how much and what proportion of child tax credit underpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was subsequently paid out in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246615]

(6) how much and what proportion of tax credit overpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was recovered in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246616]

(7) how much and what proportion of tax credit underpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was subsequently paid out in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246617]

(8) how much and what proportion of child tax credit claims were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246618]

(9) how much was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid in child tax credits owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since their introduction; what the average discrepency per case is; and if he will make a statement; [246619]

(10) how much and what proportion of child tax credit overpayments owing to *(a)* official error and *(b)* customer error was recovered in each year since their introduction; and if he will make a statement; [246620]

(11) how much has been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid in tax credits owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since their introduction; what the average discrepancy per case is; and if he will make a statement; [246621]

(12) how many and what proportion of tax credit claims were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid owing to (i) official error and (ii) customer error in each year since the scheme's introduction; and if he will make a statement. [246908]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested.

Accuracy in processing and calculating awards increased from just under 79 per cent. in 2003-04 to around 97 per cent. in 2007-08. In addition, in 2007-08 fewer than 5 per cent. of overpayments where the customer disputed whether they should make a repayment contained any element of official error.

Information about the level of under and overpayments of tax credits is published on the HM Revenue and Customs website at

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan and Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department takes to monitor the behaviour of individuals employed by private security companies operating in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [243885]

Bill Rammell: The Government do not monitor the behaviour of individuals operating on behalf of Private Military Security Companies (PMSCs), except when they are part of a contract that the Government have with a specific PMSC. HMG closely monitors contracts of PMSCs operating in Iraq and Afghanistan that are contracted by the UK Government. All HMG's PMSC contracts are subject to ongoing performance monitoring and contract management by the FCO and other Government Departments concerned, both in country on-the-ground and from the UK, in respect of all aspects of the delivery and operation of these contracts. HMG requires the highest standard of personal behaviour from staff employed by PMSCs contracted by HMG.

FCO monitors performance by a mixture of key performance indicators, regular visits by the Overseas Security Advisors to FCO posts who review and report on the PMSCs' performance, regular review meetings in London with PMSCs, and monitoring expenditure against a fully profiled budget. In addition, the FCO reviews requirements on completion of the contract and prior to re-tendering in order to highlight any improvements that could be made as a result of experience or lessons learned.

Arms Trade: Exports

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compliance of relevant UK *(a)* legislation and *(b)* regulations with the requirements of the EU Common Position on defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment; and if he will make a statement. [246129]

Bill Rammell: The UK has for some time been pressing for the adoption of the EU Code of Conduct as a Common Position; we welcome its adoption in December 2008, which changes the code's status from politically to legally binding on all member states. Export licence applications are currently subject to assessment by the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, adopted in 2000 and announced in this House on 26 October 2000. This brought together in one place principles underpinning both UK legislation and the EU Code of Conduct, to ensure a consistent approach to export licensing. This became part of statutory guidance. As export licence applications are made under the Export Control Act 2002, this remains the same with the Common Position. We will not therefore require any significant change to UK legislation to implement the Common Position, and will be in a position to implement it without delay.

Bangladesh: Elections

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards free and fair elections in Bangladesh; and if he will make a statement. [243878]

Bill Rammell: The Chief Election Commissioner of Bangladesh has announced that the national election will take place on 29 December. The parties have now submitted their nominations for the election. International observer missions are now in Bangladesh.

The caretaker Government have announced that the state of emergency will be lifted on 17 December. The people of Bangladesh are looking forward to choosing a new Government.

Bosnia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Solana-Rehn joint report to EU Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [240822]

David Miliband: I welcome the Solana-Rehn joint report entitled 'EU's policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the way ahead'. The report is principally concerned with the future of the EU Special Representative's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and is a good start to an important discussion. The UK remains deeply concerned about the political situation in BiH, and will engage closely with EU partners on the issues raised in the report. We believe the EU needs to increase further its engagement in BiH.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the Solana-Rehn joint report to EU foreign ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [240837]

David Miliband: We are not able to place a copy of the Solana-Rehn joint report to EU Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Library. The document is jointly owned by the Javier Solana (EU High Representative) and Olli Rehn (EU Commissioner for Enlargement) and is not in the public domain. However a summary of the report, which is in the public domain, will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the level of co-operation and consultation between the EU and NATO in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [240838]

David Miliband: Both the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the EU remain deeply concerned about the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At a joint NATO-EU discussion of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 27 October 2008, EU High Representative Javier Solana and the NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer underlined that the slowdown in reform progress and ongoing ethnic nationalist rhetoric was extremely worrying.

Both organisations continue to co-operate closely in their efforts to ensure Bosnia and Herzegovina makes progress on the reform priorities necessary for further EU-Atlantic integration. The EU Peacekeeping Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) continues to operate under Berlin Plus arrangements, ensuring ongoing co-ordination of NATO and EU activities. The NATO Secretary General has highlighted the excellent working relationship between NATO and EU Commanders on the ground.

British Council: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has made available for the British Council's Reconnect Initiative for each year until 2010-11. [243036]

Caroline Flint: In the 2007 comprehensive spending review, the Treasury allocated an additional £6 million to the British Council for its Reconnect Initiative:

	£ million
2008-09	1
2009-10	2
2010-11	3

These funds are in addition to the British Council's baseline funding.

British Council: Pakistan

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when it was decided to close the Library of the British Council in Lahore, Pakistan; what assessment was made of the contribution it made to understanding of the UK and the West in Pakistan; and if he will bring forward plans to reopen the Library. [244465]

Caroline Flint: As a result of the events of 11 September 2001, and due to the deteriorating security situation, all public-access British Council premises in Pakistan were closed in 2002.

The library in Lahore was an essential part of the British Council Pakistan's offer to young people helping them to establish a relationship with the UK at a time when the internet was non-existent. The British Council has continued to engage with local customers by increasing the availability of on-line and phone services while at the same time reducing the vulnerability of its staff and customers.

The security environment in Pakistan, coupled with the British Council's emphasis on partnerships and online working mean they have no plans to reopen any libraries in Pakistan.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Angling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was received through the sale of fishing licences in the British Indian Ocean Territory in the last five years. [245419]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend, the then Minister of State, Geoff Hoon, gave on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1415W for the income received in the years 2003-06 from fisheries in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Since then, income from fisheries has been as follows:

	£
2006-07	824,948
2007-08	1,078,649
2008-09 (to date)	730,206

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment the Government have made of the political situation in Myanmar. [243683]

Bill Rammell: The military regime in Burma is determined to maintain its hold on power regardless of the cost and suffering of its people. The junta's 'Roadmap to disciplined democracy', including a new constitution and elections planned for 2010, is designed to entrench military rule behind a facade of civilian government. The process excludes the opposition and meaningful participation by the ethnic groups. Fundamental rights are consistently ignored.

Since early November, over 200 pro-democracy activists have been given sentences of up to 65 years in prison. These severe sentences are clearly designed to silence all dissent ahead of the 2010 elections. There are now over 2,200 political prisoners in detention, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and other pro-democracy leaders. Ethnic minority groups have been methodically marginalised. Against this backdrop, we will continue

to do all we can to generate international pressure for a peaceful transition to democracy and respect for human rights in Burma. In particular, we will continue to give our full support to the UN Secretary General and his efforts to break the current deadlock.

Chagos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his American counterpart on the future of the Diego Garcia airbase in the Chagos Islands in light of the expiry of the agreement for US-UK joint use of Diego Garcia for defence operations in 2016. [245421]

Gillian Merron: The UK and US consult closely and regularly on their mutual defence needs, including in the annual bilateral official talks on the British Indian Ocean Territory last held in London 18-19 September 2008. To date neither the UK nor the US has raised the possibility of terminating the agreement.

The use of the British Indian Ocean Territory is regulated by a series of bilateral agreements (Exchange of Notes) between the UK and the US. The 1966 Exchange of Notes provides that the islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory, including Diego Garcia, shall be available for defence purposes of both countries for an initial period of 50 years i.e., until 2016 and continuing thereafter for a further period of 20 years unless terminated by either Government not more than two years before the end of the initial period.

Chevening Scholarships

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships have been awarded to Tibetans in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [245246]

Caroline Flint: Three Chevening scholarships have been awarded to ethnic Tibetans applying in China since 2001-02; one each in 2004-05, 2006-07 and 2007-08. This does not include any figures for Han Chinese or other Chinese ethnic minorities who may have been born in the Tibetan autonomous region.

Citizenship

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to include provisions in the Immigration and Citizenship Bill to give British nationals who are not British citizens entitlement to full British citizenship. [244735]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

There is provision with nationality law for the registration of those with another form of British nationality to be registered as "full" British citizens. If a person lives in the United Kingdom for a period of five years, and meets certain residence requirements, he or she can apply for registration.

The Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 also introduced a registration provision under which British overseas citizens, British subjects and British protected persons can be registered as British citizens if they do not possess another nationality. Similar provision exists under the British nationality Hong Kong Act 1997 for the registration of British nationals who would otherwise be stateless and are ordinarily resident in Hong Kong.

We have no plans to extend these provisions within the forthcoming legislation.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1196W, on Colombia: armed forces, whether the figure quoted for the number of Colombian armed forces personnel who received training from the British Army in 2007-08 includes those who received training in the field of counter-narcotics. [242760]

Gillian Merron: No.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expenditure his Department has incurred on providing training to members of the Colombian armed forces in each year since 2000. [242765]

Gillian Merron: UK bilateral training and engagement on human rights and humanitarian demining, which is largely funded by the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence conflict prevention pool, has cost the following approximate amounts:

	£
2000-01	[1]3,500
2001-02	[1]49,000
2002-03	[1]34,000
2003-04	120,000
2004-05	120,000
2005-06	130,000
2006-07	190,000
2007-08	190,000
2008-09	[2]190,000

[1] Denotes information that is incomplete.
[2] Denotes estimated spend.

As well as bilateral projects, the UK supports projects running through several UN agencies including the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, that will provide training to more than 2000 serving men and women.

These figures do not include training given in the field of counter narcotics. We do not disclose details of this engagement, as to do so would endanger the security of the UK and Colombian personnel involved, and undermine the effectiveness of that work.

Cyprus: Armed Forces

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of reports of the Turkish navy preventing

survey ships operating on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus in Cyprus's exclusive economic zone carrying out their work; what representations he has made on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [245171]

Caroline Flint: While we have made, and continue to make, our expectations and views clear to Turkey, we continue to urge restraint as further escalation at this time would be very counter-productive.

As a signatory to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Republic of Cyprus is within its rights to explore for oil and natural resources within its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone. We hope an early solution to the Cyprus problem will allow all Cypriots to benefit from Cyprus's mineral wealth, and the UK supports all efforts to that end.

I shall continue to follow all developments, and remain committed to supporting efforts to finding a solution in Cyprus.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the effects of recent changes in the higher ranks of the Turkish Army in Cyprus on the prospects for a settlement; and if he will make a statement. [245221]

Caroline Flint: We are pleased that the two leaders continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss a comprehensive settlement. We continue to work with all parties supporting the settlement process, encouraging flexibility and compromise.

Cyprus: Community Relations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish Cypriot authorities to enable refugee Maronites to reoccupy their villages and houses in the occupied north part of Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245029]

Caroline Flint: The UK Government are aware of the continued difficulties the Maronite community in Cyprus face as a result of the continued division of Cyprus. This includes difficulties in accessing their villages of origin and homes. Ultimately, the difficulties faced by the Maronite community as a result of the political situation on the island will only be fully resolved by a comprehensive settlement to reunite the island. We will continue to engage with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to support progress towards a settlement, and fully support their current negotiations towards this end.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to permit Orthodox worshippers to *(a)* freely visit the monastery of Agios Andreas in the Kerpas peninsula and *(b)* ring the church bell there; and if he will make a statement. [245030]

Caroline Flint: The British high commission in Nicosia are in regular contact with the appropriate Turkish Cypriots and raise such issues with them.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish Cypriot authorities with a view to obtaining the permissions and decrees necessary to restore the Agios Andreas Monastery in the Karpas peninsula; and if he will make a statement. [245057]

Caroline Flint: I regularly express the UK's support for such confidence-building measures during my contacts with Cypriot Ministers and officials, and urge both sides to look at already agreed, and new, measures and to publicise their benefits. Confidence-building measures play an important role in building trust between communities and adding momentum to discussions. It is important that these are discussed and implemented by the two communities for the benefit of all Cypriots, but they should not distract from the process.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to assist in achieving further confidence-building measures in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245059]

Caroline Flint: Confidence-building measures play an important role in building trust between communities and adding momentum to discussions. It is important that these are discussed and implemented by the two communities for the benefit of all Cypriots, but that they should not distract from the process. I regularly express the UK's support for such measures during my contacts with Cypriot Ministers and officials, and urge both sides to continue to look at already agreed, and new, measures and to publicise their benefits.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what difficulties he has identified in the restoration of the buildings at the Ledra Street crossing in Nicosia following its recent opening; what representations he is making in this regard; and if he will make a statement. [245060]

Caroline Flint: We are following this issue closely and stand ready to support the UN's efforts to achieve agreement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the extent of building on Greek Cypriot owned land in north Cyprus by people other than that land's lawful owners; what assessment he has made of the effects of such building on prospects for a settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245158]

Caroline Flint: The British Government are concerned at the continuing appropriation of, and construction on, Greek Cypriot-owned land in northern Cyprus. Our high commission in Nicosia regularly raises the issue of property development with the Turkish Cypriot leadership. We believe that the difficult and complex issue of property is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement, and I remain committed to doing everything I can to support progress towards the settlement process. I continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility to bridge the gap

between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement.

In our contacts with the Turkish Cypriot leadership, we recognise the Turkish Cypriots' need for economic development in support of reunification. However, we urge them to ensure that any property development which does take place does so in a manner that both respects the environment and does not complicate an eventual solution.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in each of the *(a)* technical committees and *(b)* working groups involved in the Cyprus negotiations; what assessment he has made of the prospects of implementing any of their recommendations in advance of a final settlement as confidence building measures; and if he will make a statement. [245161]

Caroline Flint: We are pleased that the two leaders continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss a comprehensive settlement and are assisted by technical committees and working groups. Confidence-building measures play an important role in building trust between communities and adding momentum to discussions. It is important that these are discussed and implemented by the two communities for the benefit of all Cypriots, but that they should not distract from the process.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of progress in negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders towards a settlement; and if he will make a statement. [245162]

Caroline Flint: We are pleased that the two leaders continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss a comprehensive settlement. We urge both leaders and communities to seize this opportunity to reunite the island of Cyprus and to engage positively and flexibly in the process of negotiations.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the appropriate authorities on behalf of the enclaved Maronite community in the north of Cyprus *(a)* to enable them to visit the church of Agla Marina, *(b)* for permission for them (i) to ring the church bell at Asomatos village and (ii) to visit the church freely and (c) for restoration of the monastery of Prophetis Elias; and if he will make a statement. [245165]

Caroline Flint: The Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the Maronite community in Cyprus in accessing their villages of origin, including the villages of Agia Marina and Asomatos, and consequently in religious expression in those villages. We are also aware of the need for greater preservation of churches and other buildings of religious and cultural heritage in these villages, and throughout the northern part of Cyprus. We supported the Council of Europe's resolution concerning the protection of national minorities in Cyprus adopted on 9 July 2008, which called for

> "additional measures to support the revitalisation and promotion of the cultural, religious and linguistic heritage of the Maronites".

We have also called for an early implementation by the leaders of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities of the sixteen confidence-building measures that they announced on 25 July 2008, three of which relate to the issue of cultural heritage. Ultimately, these issues occur as a result of the political situation on the island, and will only be fully resolved by a comprehensive settlement to reunite the island. We will continue to engage with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to support progress towards a settlement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made on behalf of the enclaved Greek Cypriots living in the Karpas peninsula; and if he will make a statement. [245166]

Caroline Flint: The UK regularly discusses the issues of the enclaved along with other member states in the Committee of Ministers in the European Court of Human Rights.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average age of (i) Greek Cypriots, (ii) Turkish Cypriots and (iii) settlers from the Turkish mainland resident in the Karpas peninsula; and if he will make a statement. [245167]

Caroline Flint: There are no UK Government estimates of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average age of anyone living in the Karpas peninsula.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average age of Maronites resident in enclaves in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245168]

Caroline Flint: There are no UK Government estimates of the *(a)* number and *(b)* average age of Maronites resident in northern Cyprus. The most recent UN Forces in Cyprus report referred to 142 Maronites living in the north.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of restrictions on Greek Cypriot enclaved residents living in the Karpas penninsula on *(a)* where they can live, *(b)* the right of former residents to return to live there, *(c)* to own a business, *(d)* to repair or modernise their homes, *(e)* to undertake paid employment, *(f)* to hunt or fish and *(g)* to educate their children; what representations he has made on their behalf to seek the lifting of such restrictions; and to whom he has made those representations. [245169]

Caroline Flint: We do not have any detailed information on any restrictions placed on Greek Cypriot enclaved residents living in the Karpas peninsula. The recent report by the UN Secretary General referred to the tight restrictions, applied by the Turkish Cypriot side, on UN movement in certain parts of the Karpas peninsula:

> "which continues to hamper humanitarian and monitoring operations in the area".

The report also noted that UN Forces in Cyprus:

> "continues to receive with concern reports about the demolition of Greek Cypriot houses in the Karpas, including residences of those who had indicated their desire to return to the north".

We are aware of the difficulties faced by Greek Cypriot communities living in the northern part of Cyprus who are enclaved as a result of the political situation on the island and the presence of Turkish troops in the northern part. This is an issue which will only be fully resolved by a comprehensive settlement to reunite the island. We will continue to engage with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to support progress towards a settlement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the number of *(a)* Turkish nationals and *(b)* Turkish settlers living in northern Cyprus, apart from members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [245170]

Caroline Flint: There are no UK Government estimates of the number of *(a)* Turkish nationals and *(b)* Turkish settlers living in northern Cyprus.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the possible opening of the proposed crossing point at Kato Pyrgos/Kokkina/Erenköy/Limnitis/Yesilirmak; what representations he has made on the subject; what assessment he has made of the obstacles to the crossing point being opened; and if he will make a statement. [245172]

Caroline Flint: Confidence-building measures play an important role in building trust between communities and adding momentum to discussions. It is important that these are discussed and implemented by the two communities for the benefit of all Cypriots but that they should not distract from the process. I regularly express the UK's support for such measures during my contacts with Cypriot Ministers and officials, and urge both sides to continue to look at already agreed, and new, measures and to publicise their benefits.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the level of civil society activity in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245173]

Caroline Flint: Although I have no detailed information it is clear that the level of civil society activity in northern Cyprus is increasing. It is important that civil society underpins the settlement process.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of levels of cross-green line contacts by civil society in Cyprus *(a)* overall, *(b)* by political parties, *(c)* by trade unions and *(d)* by young people; what steps he is taking to encourage such contacts; and if he will make a statement. [245180]

Caroline Flint: We do not have detailed figures. However, such contacts are increasing and have an important role in underpinning any settlement.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the imprisonment of two young Turkish Cypriots for allegedly insulting the Turkish Cypriot leader on a Facebook group they had set up; and if he will make a statement. [245181]

Caroline Flint: The high commission are aware of reports in the press about the arrest of a 19-year-old and a 21-year-old appearing before the courts in relation to material published on Facebook. The reports claimed they were to be held in custody for seven days.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Turkish Cypriot authorities on the efforts of north Cyprus police to locate 160 members of the Facebook group on which the Turkish Cypriot leader was allegedly insulted. [245182]

Caroline Flint: I have no plans to make representations on this matter.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Turkish nationals have become citizens of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [245191]

Caroline Flint: According to figures from the 'interior ministry' in northern Cyprus, 160 people have been naturalised since 2005 and done so by the decision of the 'Council of Ministers' in northern Cyprus. This excludes marriages.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the six chapters identified as the subjects for consideration by the leaders of the communities in Cyprus are; what process is being adopted for the consideration of each chapter; what progress is being made on consideration of each chapter; and if he will make a statement. [245193]

Caroline Flint: There are a number of issues which the negotiations could cover. Six working groups have discussed the following areas: governance and power sharing, EU matters, security and guarantees, territory, property and economic matters. The technical committees have discussed crime and criminal matters, economic and commercial matters, cultural heritage, crisis management, humanitarian and health matters and the environment. We are pleased that the two leaders continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss a comprehensive settlement. Thus far they have discussed matters of governance and power sharing.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the effectiveness of the Turkish Cypriot property commission in providing an adequate remedy; how many cases have been lodged by Greek Cypriots with the commission; how many such cases have been determined; how many of those determined cases have resulted in awards of *(a)* compensation and *(b)* restitution; whether the awards have been implemented in each of these cases; and if he will make a statement. [245195]

Caroline Flint: According to media reports in July this year, the commission from its establishment in 2006 until June 2008, has paid €8,066,307 relating to 1,783,043 metres square of Greek Cypriot property.

In 2006, €2,817,088 compensation was paid, while €3,991,614 was paid in 2007.

729 applications by Greek Cypriots have been made to date of which 41 have been finalised; 35 by compensation, 3 by restitution and 2 by exchange of property. According to information released, one of the applications will have their property returned in the event of a solution.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the consequences of the European Court of Justice Advocate General's opinion in the Orams case; and if he will make a statement. [245196]

Caroline Flint: We are considering the Advocate-General's opinion (AGO) carefully, but the AGO is not binding on the Court. As this case is ongoing it would not be appropriate for us to comment further on any implications.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the implementation by Turkey of the Arestes judgment in the European Court of Human Rights; and if he will make a statement. [245197]

Caroline Flint: On 7 December 2006, the European Court of Human Rights gave a judgment stating that Turkey must pay a just satisfaction award (damages plus legal costs and expenses) to the applicant. This has not yet been done and we urge Turkey to pay this award promptly.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the Republic of Cyprus's guardianship law in the light of the Sofi case; and if he will make a statement. [245198]

Caroline Flint: The Guardian of Turkish Properties, an authority of the government of the Republic of Cyprus, was set up as the caretaker of properties in the south belonging to Turkish Cypriots who were refugees due to the division of the island. According to the law the Guardian takes over the property until the Cyprus problem is resolved when it will be handed back to its legal owners in the state it had been received.

The European Court of Human Rights is due to examine the Sofi case. In the circumstances it would not be appropriate for the Government to comment.

Ultimately property issues are only going to be solved as part of a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the consequences of the European Court of Human Rights case of Varnavas *v.* Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [245199]

Caroline Flint: A Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights gave judgment in Varnavas and others *v.* Turkey (application nos. 16064/90, 16065/90, 16066/90, 16068/90, 16069/90, 16070/90, 16071/90, 16072/90 and 16073/90) on 10 January 2008. That judgment is not final, since the case was referred to the Grand Chamber which held a hearing on 19 November 2008. The Grand Chamber has not yet delivered its judgment. In the circumstances it would not be appropriate for the Government to comment.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his estimate is of the number of people who travelled across the green line from *(a)* north to south and *(b)* south to north in Cyprus, in (i) 2008 and (ii) each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [245217]

Caroline Flint: According to the annual reports on the Green Line Regulation:

1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008: 633,163 Greek Cypriots and 1,162,739 Turkish Cypriots crossed the Green Line.

1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007: 788,823 Greek Cypriots and 1,348,215 Turkish Cypriots crossed the Green Line

1 May 2005 to 30 April 2006: 1,195,594 Greek Cypriots and 2,179,815 Turkish Cypriots crossed the Green Line.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of trends in the number of mosques being built in northern Cyprus; what assessment he has made of the consequences of those trends for the prospects of settlement in Cyprus; what assessment he has made of the sources of funding for such building; and if he will make a statement. [245218]

Caroline Flint: We do not have any information on the number of mosques being built in north Cyprus or the sources of funding for such building.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the consequences of the decisions of UK Cyprus veterans to erect a memorial in Kyrenia *(a)* generally and *(b)* on relations between the communities on the island; and if he will make a statement. [245219]

Caroline Flint: The cemetery is not on UK territory, nor is it owned by the UK Government. It would be inappropriate, therefore, for us to comment on proposals to place memorials there.

Cyprus: EC Aid

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made in disbursing the 259 million euro earmarked by the European Union for expenditure in northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245049]

Caroline Flint: The European Union is providing €259 million of aid to the Turkish Cypriot community, to help bring them closer to Europe and so facilitate a settlement. As of October 2008, the projects contracted reaches a cumulative total of €60.8 million since inception, the total amount tendered reaches €119.5 million and the total paid €25.5 million. While implementation of the regulation has been slower than originally anticipated, the benefits are already being felt. The European

Commission is responsible for administering the assistance. A programme team of Commission officials and contract agents was set up in 2006 to implement the programme as part of the Task Force Turkish Cypriot Community within DG Enlargement.

Ongoing projects include a successful programme of scholarships for Turkish Cypriot students and teachers to study and teach in EU universities, grant schemes for civil society and targeted support to farmers to upgrade their equipment. Full details are contained in the Commission's most recent annual report on the implementation of the financial aid package. We agree with their conclusion that the current settlement negotiations

> "will create a positive framework for facilitating the implementation and the success of this aid package"

and look forward to rapid implementation of outstanding projects.

Cyprus: Economic Situation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of *(a)* the extent to which the Turkish Cypriot economy is subsidised by Turkey and *(b)* the extent to which the Turkish Republic of northern Cyprus depends on such subsidies; what his estimate is of the number and percentage of public sector workers in the north of Cyprus excluding serving military personnel; what assessment he has made of the sustainability of the economy of northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245174]

Caroline Flint: Estimates for the Turkish contribution to the 2009 Budget are 365,000,000 YTL (new Turkish lira) or 14 per cent. The estimated number of workers in the public sector is between 15,000-20,000. Approximately 39 per cent. of the budget is assigned to personnel costs. The economy is currently in recession.

Cyprus: Education

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made in *(a)* Northern Cyprus and *(b)* the Republic of Cyprus on education reform, with particular reference in each case to (i) the history curriculum and (ii) the availability of language teaching in the other community's language; and if he will make a statement. [245222]

Caroline Flint: In 2003, Turkish Cypriots decided to revise their history textbooks. This September, the Republic of Cyprus Education Minister Andreas Demetriou announced the setting up of a committee of experts to review Greek Cypriot history books.

Despite commitments from both sides, the availability of language teaching in the other community's language is limited. There is currently one Greek Primary School and one Greek Secondary School in the Karpas area. There are currently a number of Turkish Cypriot students that attend a Greek Cypriot school in Limassol, where Turkish language classes are also provided.

Cyprus: Human Trafficking

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the extent of people trafficking *(a)* for sexual purposes and *(b)* other purposes in northern Cyprus in the latest period for which he has information; and if he will make a statement. [245194]

Caroline Flint: We hold no detailed information on this. However the British high commission take the issue seriously and participated in a human trafficking seminar in Cyprus earlier this year.

Cyprus: Land Mines

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government contributed to the removal of land mines in Cyprus; how much other countries or organisations have contributed; how much further funding is required to complete the work; if he will consider further contributions to bridge any outstanding funding gap; and if he will make a statement. [245055]

Caroline Flint: The work to remove landmines in the buffer zone has been largely funded by the EU to the sum of €9m. (The UK contributes approximately 15 per cent. to the EU budget).

However there have also been donations of $25,000 from Slovenia and $250,000 from Canada. On 17 December the UN announced a donation of €15,000 from Hungary.

The funds required to complete the clearance of landmines in the buffer zone stand at €5m (less the donation of €15,000 from Hungary).

We have not yet made a final decision as to whether or not to make further donations to bridge the outstanding funding gap.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made in Cyprus on the removal of land mines in *(a)* the buffer zone, *(b)* areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus government and *(c)* the Turkish occupied areas; and if he will make a statement. [245056]

Caroline Flint: To date, the UNDP "Landmine and Unexploded Ordnance Clearance Project" has released 6.5 million square meters of land, clearing 51 minefields and disposing of 9,163 landmines. The project has also played an important role in the opening of crossing points between the two communities, such as Ledra Street.

Cyprus: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the consequences of Turkey assuming the chairmanship of the UN Security Council for the prospects of a settlement in Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245224]

Caroline Flint: The UK looks forward to working with Turkey on the UN Security Council, including as council chair, in its role as an important player in the region for peace and security. This includes on the Cyprus settlement process where the international community expects all key players to play a supportive and constructive role.

Cyprus: Press

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which newspapers and periodicals published in northern Cyprus the UK and its High Commission places advertisements; if he will make it his policy not to place such advertisements in newspapers and periodicals owned by Asil Nadir; and if he will make a statement. [R] [245163]

Caroline Flint: The high commission primarily advertises in KIBRIS and Cyprus Today which are the two best selling and most widely read newspapers in the north. These are both owned by Asil Nadir. We also occasionally advertise in HALKIN SESI.

Cyprus: Trade

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* volume and *(b)* value of trade passing (i) from north to south Cyprus, (ii) from south to north Cyprus, (iii) from north Cyprus, through Republic of Cyprus ports, to other countries, (iv) from Republic of Cyprus to Turkey and (v) from Turkey to the Republic of Cyprus for (A) the current year and (B) each of the last three years,; what assessment he has made of the obstacles to trade in each case; and if he will make a statement. [245159]

Caroline Flint: The EU publishes annual Green Line reports where this information can be found. Further details can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/turkish_cypriot_community/glr_report_en.pdf.

Cyprus: Vehicles

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will put in place measures to count the number of *(a)* persons and *(b)* vehicles travelling directly to Sovereign Base Area territory from northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245050]

Caroline Flint: There are currently no plans to put in place measures to count the number of persons and vehicles travelling directly to the Sovereign Base Area territory from northern Cyprus. However, the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) provide all information at their disposal on the movement of people to the Republic of Cyprus. There is practical co-operation between SBA and Republic of Cyprus officials on a daily basis, and regular meetings between the SBAs, the Republic of Cyprus and the European Commission where information on movement of persons and goods is exchanged.

Cyprus: Water Supply

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the water shortage in Cyprus and the effectiveness of policy to combat it; and if he will make a statement. [245223]

Caroline Flint: Cyprus is going through its worst water shortage for many years owing to prolonged dry seasons and lower than average rainfall year-on-year. The government of the Republic of Cyprus has looked to counteract this in several ways, including for the short term, imposing restrictions on water usage to conserve the reservoir levels and importing water from Greece. In the longer term, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus is looking at the potential of building more desalination plants to convert sea water into drinking water.

It is too early to comment on the potential effectiveness of these policies. The level of drought experienced is unprecedented and can only be remedied in the short term with rainfall.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the additional troops for MONUC authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1843 on 20 November to be deployed. [243155]

Gillian Merron: We aim to secure reinforcements for the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) as quickly as possible, and will continue with our efforts to bring this about, including by lobbying potential troop contributing countries. An adequately-resourced UN peacekeeping mission is essential to ensure long-term humanitarian assistance and military support for political processes in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Security Guards

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have taken the lead in security sector reform in Democratic Republic of Congo; and what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the reforms initiated. [243156]

Gillian Merron: The UK with other donors, including the UN, the EU, EU member states, the US, China and South Africa, has contributed to security sector reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Progress in this area is essential to improving stability and human rights in DRC. Issues affecting security sector reform are complex, and will take time to resolve comprehensively. Much of the work is at an early stage, and it is not yet possible to judge its success. The UK is providing support in a number of areas including through the provision of an extensive security sector accountability programme and assistance to the justice sector.

The DRC authorities have demonstrated commitment to reform in a number of areas. We will continue to press for greater co-ordination of effort particularly to address deficiencies in army administration, to allow the army to function more effectively.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what use his Department is currently making of the property at 1 Carlton Gardens; whether negotiations over the lease with the Crown Estate Commissioners have now concluded; and whether the lease will be extended. [245923]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office uses 1 Carlton Gardens for a range of events hosted by ministers and senior officials, as well as other departmental meetings. It is not being used for residential purposes. Negotiations with the Crown Estate are continuing.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242926]

Gillian Merron: Our records show that since 1997 three members of staff have been investigated, suspended and dismissed for deliberately disclosing confidential information. Our records show that no staff have been suspended or dismissed for losing any data stored on departmental equipment. One member of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff has been investigated and disciplined for having done so.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244346]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office do not have any record of payments made to Remploy in this period. Information about the status of suppliers can be obtained only by examining each supplier record, and it would not be possible to do this without incurring disproportionate cost.

European Union: Civil Servants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which members of staff of the devolved administrations' EU offices have been in the UK delegation to *(a)* Council of Ministers meetings and *(b)* meetings with Commissioners; what the dates of those meetings were; and which UK Government Ministers were present at each of the Ministerial meetings. [242444]

Caroline Flint: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gambia

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Gambian authorities on the case of David and Fiona Fulton; and if he will make a statement. [244524]

Gillian Merron: Consular staff in the Gambia have been providing consular assistance to Mr. and Mrs. Fulton and their daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Fulton have been visited several times. They have legal representation and consular staff are in regular contact with their legal representative.

We are making further inquiries in relation to their case, in order to establish whether representations may be appropriate.

India: Pakistan

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of relations between India and Pakistan following events in Mumbai. [243681]

Gillian Merron: This is a sensitive time for the region, following the Mumbai attacks. It will be important for Pakistan and India to co-operate fully to bring those responsible to justice and ensure that this terrible act does not prevent the dialogue between these two countries moving forward. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister visited New Delhi and Islamabad on 14 December and discussed the issues with Prime Minister Singh and President Zardari. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has also spoken to Foreign Minister Qureshi and External Affairs Minister Mukherjee.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance he is *(a)* providing and *(b)* offering to the authorities in Mumbai in respect of their efforts to identify those responsible for the recent terrorist attack. [244330]

Bill Rammell: A UK police team was deployed to Mumbai to support the UK Government's response to the incident.

We are committed to extending our already close working relationship with the Indian Government to counter the terrorist threat posed to both our countries and have offered all necessary help, including in the aftermath of the Mumbai attacks.

International Relations

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what level of voter turnout is required for elections overseas to be deemed as legitimate by his Department. [243221]

Gillian Merron: The UK participates in Electoral Observation Missions run by the EU, the OSCE and other international organisations. In assessing the validity of an election, these missions take into account a range of factors, including the degree of impartiality shown by the election management body; the degree of freedom

of political parties; the fairness of access for political parties and others to the media and the conduct of the polling and counting of votes. There is no international standard on levels of voter turnout, but turnout can be an indicator of some of the factors listed above. More information about EU electoral observation missions can be found at:

http://europa.eu/eur-lex/en/com/cnc/2000/com2000_0191_en01.pdf.

Japan: British Overseas Citizenship

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British *(a)* citizens and *(b)* overseas citizens are registered as living in Japan. [245259]

Bill Rammell: According to figures supplied by the Japanese Ministry of Justice, as of 17 September 2008 there were 17,328 British registered as living in Japan. This figure includes British overseas citizens as the Japanese authorities do not hold separate figures for different types of British citizenship.

Japan: Overseas Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Ministers have visited Japan in the last 12 months on official business. [245290]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is as follows:

Lord Malloch Brown, FCO (January)

Alistair Darling MP, HMT, for G7 Finance Ministers Meeting (February)

Malcolm Wicks MP, BERR (March)

Phil Woolas MP, DEFRA for the G8 Gleneagles Dialogue Meeting (March)

Gareth Thomas MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, DFID (April)

Digby Jones, UKTI (April)

Hilary Benn MP, DEFRA for the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting (May)

Stephen Timms MP, DWP, for G8 Labour Ministers (May)

John Hutton MP, BERR for the G8 Energy Ministers Meeting (June)

David Miliband MP, FCO for the G8 Foreign Ministers (June)

Ian Pearson MP as Science Minister for the G8 Science Ministers meeting (June)

Alistair Darling MP, HMT, for G8 Finance Ministers (June)

Gordon Brown for the G8 Summit (July)

Lord Adonis (November)

Japan: Terrorism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on action against terrorism. [245261]

Bill Rammell: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs discussed international efforts against terrorism in Afghanistan during a meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Foreign Minister Nakasone, on 26 September 2008 in New York. In this context, we welcome the recent Japanese extension of their contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom in the Indian ocean.

The UK continues to work with Japan (and other partners) within the G8 to counter international terrorism by exchanging ideas and developing best practices in areas such as law enforcement, transport security and capacity building.

Military Aid

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what human rights assessment the Government makes before granting military aid to a foreign government. [244525]

Gillian Merron: Every case is considered individually and kept under constant review. All decisions to provide a country with assistance are taken to encourage adherence to international humanitarian law, or to help address issues of concern. The UK abides by its commitments under international law, including those under international human rights law and expects all countries to comply with their international legal obligations. When providing military equipment, the Government judge all military aid against the consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. Criterion 2 refers specifically to:

"the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the country of final destination."

The UK would not undertake the export of military equipment if there was a clear risk that it would be used for human rights abuses.

Morocco: Borders

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether, in light of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement, the European Union has asked Morocco to define its borders. [246317]

Bill Rammell: The European Union has not asked Morocco to define its borders in light of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement.

Morocco: EU External Relations

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the compliance of Morocco with UN Security Council resolutions calling for a referendum on self-determination was raised with Morocco in the recent meeting of the EU-Morocco sub-committee on human rights, democracy and governance. [244551]

Bill Rammell: Negotiations under UNHCR 1813 were not discussed at the 8 October EU-Morocco Human Rights Subcommittee meeting. Western Sahara was discussed at the EU Association Council meeting on 13 October.

The UK supports the negotiation process initiated in Manhasset in 2007 to achieve a political outcome to the Western Sahara question and has called on the parties to maintain their commitment to the negotiation process. The UK looks forward to the appointment by the UN Secretary General of a new Personal Envoy to take forward the next round of negotiations.

Morocco: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Moroccan counterpart the award of the 25th Annual Robert F Kennedy Human Rights Award to Aminatou Haidar. [244365]

Bill Rammell: I congratulate Aminatou Haidar on her award. FCO Officials met with her in 2007.

The UK is concerned about the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict in Western Sahara and continues to discuss a range of issues relating to Western Sahara with Morocco.

The British ambassador to Morocco regularly holds discussions with Moroccan officials on Western Sahara. The most recent high level discussions took place at the Euro Mediterranean conference in Marseille on 3 November, where the Foreign Secretary discussed Western Sahara and human rights, with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Taieb Fassi Fihri.

Pakistan: Prisoners

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens were imprisoned in Pakistan in 2006; and how many such citizens received consular assistance. [245443]

Bill Rammell: The number of British nationals who were imprisoned in Pakistan in 2006 and whose detention was reported to the British high commission in Islamabad or the British deputy high commission in Karachi was 34. We have provided appropriate consular assistance to all of these individuals.

With regard to individuals of dual British/Pakistani nationality, we may only be aware that a dual national has been detained if the detaining authorities inform us of the detention, or allow the person to contact our consular staff. When we do seek access to a detained dual national in the country of their other nationality, that access, and any help we can provide, will depend on the agreement of the other state.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Mr. Rashid Rauf was contacted by consular officials in Pakistan during 2006. [245444]

Bill Rammell: Mr. Rashid Rauf was not contacted by consular officials in Pakistan during 2006. Rashid Rauf is a dual Pakistani/British citizen who was in custody in the country of his other nationality. We do not normally provide consular assistance in these circumstances.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of estimates by the Russian Service of the BBC World Service of the number of Russian internet users able to listen to broadcasts via a broadband internet connection to its website. [242829]

Caroline Flint: Independent research indicates that by the end of 2008 Russia will have overtaken the UK to become the second largest internet market in Europe, with 40.3 million internet users, and that there will be 7.4 million households (14 per cent.) with a broadband connection. These numbers are rising rapidly, and it is expected that in 2012 there will be 59 million internet users in Russia, and 21 million households with broadband access.

All internet users with a broadband connection should be able to listen to BBC Russian Service broadcasts via its website, as should those with dial up/narrowband connections. All audience measurement research used by BBC World Service is carried out by independent agencies.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hours per week on average there were of *(a)* news-related and *(b)* other programming broadcast on the Russian Service of the BBC World Service in (i) the last month, (ii) 1998 and (iii) 1988. [242830]

Caroline Flint: In November 2008, the BBC Russian Service broadcast about 45 hours of live news and current affairs programming on its radio service, per week on average, as well as about 34 hours per week of features and other pre-recorded programming, of which about three hours were original production and the remaining hours repeats. Some of this programming would have incorporated themes from the news and current affairs output.

Comparable figures for 1988 and 1998 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, since 2004, the BBC Russian Service has focused increasingly on strengthening its news and current affairs programming, particularly at key audience listening times, in line with BBC World Service objectives and in order to increase impact with audiences in Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the steps the Russian Service of the BBC World Service has taken to determine the level of support among Russian listeners for an increase in news-related programming on BBC Russia. [242831]

Caroline Flint: All audience and market research used by BBC World Service is carried out independently. Such research shows that audiences turn to BBC World Service primarily for news.

The most recent audience survey carried out in Russia for the BBC found that of all BBC output, news attracts the largest audiences, and that the weekly BBC audiences are especially heavy news consumers. Independently-produced internet audience figures show that the number of users of the BBC Russian Service's website increased by over a million in August 2008, at the height of the conflict between Russia and Georgia, to 2.4 million.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens who were caught up in the recent blockade of Bangkok's two main airports; and if he will make a statement. [240327]

Bill Rammell: At this time of year approximately 1,000 British nationals are estimated to fly in to Thailand each day. During the blockade approximately 1,250 stranded British nationals registered with us using our online registration service, LOCATE. By 4 December the information available from the major airlines flying to/from Thailand suggested there were a maximum of 2,000 British nationals in Thailand who remained unable to leave as a result of the disruption. However, many were able to get seats on flights on 5 December, Suvarnabhumi International Airport's first day back at full operation, and over the subsequent weekend.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Thailand. [243682]

Bill Rammell: The political situation in Thailand remains uncertain. The Thai Constitutional Court ruled on 2 December to dissolve three government coalition parties, including the People's Power Party, and banned executive members of the parties, including Prime Minister Somchai, from politics for five years. The leader of the Democrat Party, Abhisit Vejjavija, was elected Prime Minister on 15 December and is in the process of forming a new government. However, we cannot rule out the possibility of further demonstrations and violent unrest. We continue to urge all parties to resolve their differences peacefully, respecting the rule of law and Thailand's democratic institutions.

Tibet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has persuaded the Chinese government to take in respect of Tibet since his announcement on the change of position on the status of Tibet. [243953]

Bill Rammell: I issued a public statement on 24 November following the conclusion of the Tibetan exiles' meeting in Dharamsala, in which I again urged the Chinese government to engage in substantive discussion with the Dalai Lama's representatives, on the proposals put forward by the Tibetan side.

In addition, both I and Simon McDonald, the Prime Minister's Foreign Policy adviser met with Zhu Weiqun the Assistant Minister from the United Front Work Department on 14 November. We made clear the Government's wish for the Chinese government to address the human rights situation in Tibet, through a meaningful system of autonomy.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the outcomes of the eighth round of talks between the representatives of the Chinese government and the Tibetan government-in-exile; and if he will make a statement. [243954]

Bill Rammell: The first session of the special general meeting took place in Dharamsala 17-22 November 2008. In total 560 participants from 19 different countries attended. The meeting agreed a number of recommendations, a summary of these is available at:

http://www.tibet.net/en/index.php?id=546&articletype=flash&rmenuid=morenews

I issued a statement on the conclusion of the talks on 24 November. I welcomed the renewed commitment from the Tibetan exile movement to pursue a sustainable solution to the underlying issues in Tibet through dialogue with China and non-violent means. I also said that I believed that some of the proposals put forward by the Tibetan side prior to the last round of dialogue should provide a basis for substantive discussions, focussed initially on identifying points of agreement.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what date has been set for the next round of the UK-China human rights dialogue. [243956]

Bill Rammell: The next round of the UK-China human rights dialogue has been set for 12-13 January 2009.

Turkey: EU Accession

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the prospects of Turkey meeting the obligations under the Ankara Protocol before the assessment in 2009 of Turkey's EU accession prospects; and if he will make a statement. [245046]

Caroline Flint: The UK notes that Turkey has not implemented its obligations under the Ankara agreement protocol. Turkey needs to meet all its obligations under the accession process, including on the Ankara protocol, and we regularly urge them to do so as soon as possible. The UK continues to be a strong supporter of Turkey's EU accession process.

UN Cyprus Committee on Missing Persons

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual budgetary requirement of the UN Cyprus Committee on Missing Persons is; how many sets of human remains of *(a)* Greek Cypriots and *(b)* Turkish Cypriots the Committee has (i) recovered, (ii) identified and (iii) returned to relatives; how many sites the Committee has (A) investigated and (B) excavated; how many sites remain to be investigated; how much the Government has provided for the work of the Committee in each of the last four years; which other countries and organisations have provided for in each of the last four years, and how much in each case; if he will consider making further funds available to meet the Committee's budgetary requirements; and if he will make a statement. [245054]

Caroline Flint: The annual budget requirement for 2009 is $3m. So far 466 bodies have been exhumed of which 352 are Greek Cypriot, 104 Turkish Cypriot and 10 sets of remains whose details have yet to be determined.

Of the exhumed bodies, 110 have been identified and returned of which 78 are Greek Cypriot and 32 Turkish Cypriot.

The Committee have excavated more than 200 grave sites, out of which less than half yielded remains. There are no figures for the number of sites which are still to

be investigated - mapping out the grave sites is an ongoing task carried out by both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot members of the Committee of Missing Persons (CMP).

The level of UK donations over the last four years has been:

	US$
2004	50,000
2006	86,257
2007	23,041

A full list of donations is:

Donor	Status	Date	Amount in currency	Amount in USD[1]
United Kingdom	Donation	November 2004	US$50,000	US$50,000
Cyprus	Donation	November 2005	CY£ 60,000	US$138,249
Germany	Donation	December 2005	€100,000	US$134,409
Greece	Donation	January 2006	CY£ 29,999	US$69,122
Greece	Donation	January 2006	CY£ 20,000[2]	US$46,083
Turkey	Donation	January 2006[3]	US$ 100,000	US$ 100,000
Cyprus	Donation	February 2006	CY£ 70,000	US$ 161,290
United Kingdom	Donation	April 2006	CY£ 37,435.50	US$ 86,257
Turkish Cypriots	Donation	May 2006	CY£ 71,119.35	US$ 163,869
Cyprus	Donation	June 2006	CY£ 70,000	US$161,290
Cyprus	Donation	July 2006	CY£ 200,000	US$460,829
Turkey	Donation	September 2006	US$ 87,000	US$ 87,000
Spain	Donation	November 2006	€100,000	US$134,409
Ireland	Donation	November 2006	€50,000	US$67,204
Belgium	Donation	February 2007	€250,000	US$ 336,022
European Commission	Donation	July 2007	€1,500,000[4]	US$ 2,016,129
United States	Donation	April-October 2007	US$ 135,000[5]	US$ 135,000
United Kingdom	Donation	May 2007	CY£10,000	US$23,041
Turkey	Donation	July 2007	US$50,000	US$50,000
United States	Donation	July 2007	US$ 411,570[7]	US$ 411,470
Cyprus	Donation	October 2007	Mechanical digger + parts	US$ 102,677
Australia	Donation	October 2007	AU$10,000	US$ 8,000
Ireland	Donation	December 2007	€50,000	US$ 73,600
Netherlands	Donation	January 2008	€250,000	US$ 372,123
Cyprus	Grant	February 2008	€165,600	US$ 244,922
Greece	Donation	July 2008	€100,000	US$ 155,000
Cyprus	Donation	September 2008	Excavator + 2 4X4 trucks	US$ 131,484
Spain	Donation	November 2008	€50,000	US$64,683
Germany	Donation	December 2008	€100,000	US$129,366
Ireland	Donation	December 2008	€50,000	US$64,683
Total				US$6,178,211

[1] *As per UN applicable exchange rate at the time of the* donation.
[2] *Donated directly to the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics (CING) in Nicosia for CMP-related work.*
[3] *US$ 50,000 donated directly to the Turkish Cypriot DNA laboratory at Dr. Burhan Nalbantolu Hospital in Nicosia and US$ 50,000 donated directly to the Turkish Cypriots to carry out exhumation in the north.*
[4] *Contribution to the CMP Project granted as part of the* Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 establishing an instrument of financial support for encouraging the *economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community* and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the European Agency for Reconstruction, with *the agreement of the Turkish Cypriot community.*
[5] *Donated by the US Agency for International Development* (USAID) via the United Nations Development Programme—Action for Co-operation and Trust (UNDP-ACT) programme in Cyprus. It permitted the construction of the CMP Family Viewing Facility, located next to the CMP anthropological laboratory, *inaugurated on 10 March 2008—for the earlier donations,* see website of the US embassy in Nicosia

We have not yet made a final decision as to whether or not to make further donations to meet the Committee's budgetary requirements.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on Western Sahara: politics and government, whether he has discussed with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights the Government's position on human rights monitoring in the Western Sahara. [244262]

Bill Rammell: I have had no recent discussions on human rights monitoring in Western Sahara with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The UK strongly supports UNHCR's activities in Western Sahara as elsewhere. The UK continues to believe that the resolution of humanitarian questions should not await the conclusion of a political settlement. The UK, along with EU partners, has called on Morocco and the Polisario to deal with outstanding human rights issues and implement measures that will increase people's confidence.

I understand the High Commissioner will visit the region early next year and I wish her a successful visit.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations on Morocco's continued occupation of Western Sahara to the Moroccan ambassador to the UK. [244263]

Gillian Merron: The UK supports the negotiation process initiated in Manhasset in 2007 to achieve a political outcome to the Western Sahara question. We hope a further round of talks will take place soon. UNSCR 1813 adopted on 30 April 2008 called on the parties to continue to show political will and to work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to enter into a more intensive and substantive phase of negotiation. The UK has reiterated the words of the UNSG, calling on the parties to work with a spirit of realism and compromise towards a mutually acceptable political solution that will provide for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

My officials regularly discuss the issue of Western Sahara with their Moroccan counterparts including the Moroccan ambassador to the UK. I discussed Western Sahara with the Moroccan Foreign Minister at the Euromed Conference in Marseille on 3 November.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Moroccan counterpart the movement of Moroccan settlers to occupied Western Sahara and the application of the Geneva Convention to such settlements; and if he will make a statement. [244367]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary did discuss Western Sahara, and specifically human rights, with the Moroccan Foreign Minister Fassi Fihri in November, at the Union for the Mediterranean Ministerial meeting in Marseille. Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor I have discussed the issue of migration between Morocco and Western Sahara with our Moroccan counterparts.

The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the United Nations. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN in this respect and looks forward to the appointment of a new UN Secretary General Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, and the resumption of the Manhasset negotiations.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the killing of two Saharawi students on 1 December 2008; and what action the ambassador in Rabat has taken. [244369]

Bill Rammell: Two Saharawi students were crushed by a bus on 1 December 2008 in the coach station of Agadir. The coach station was busier than normal with a high number of passengers seeking to travel to their home cities to celebrate the festival of Eid Al Adha with their families. Local media reports claim that a coach company declined to accept students in possession of vouchers for free transport and some of those students attempted to prevent the coach from leaving the station. Unfortunately two students were fatally injured during the ensuing commotion.

The Attorney-General in Morocco directed the police to conduct a probe into the incident and the coach driver has been placed in police custody. Following the incident there were demonstrations at university campuses at which some students were arrested but subsequently released.

The British embassy in Morocco has been monitoring the situation in region.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to press for the exclusion of Western Saharan waters from any new agreement to replace the current EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement on its expiry. [244921]

Bill Rammell: As with previous fisheries agreements, the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement applies to

> "the Moroccan fisheries zone under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco".

The fisheries agreement does not in any way prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara. The UK continues to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the United Nations. To this end and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution (1813) of 30 April, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff, and the negotiation process currently underway.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 240, on Western Sahara: politics and government, what progress has been made by the UN in its negotiations with the Moroccan government on compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1813. [243806]

Bill Rammell: The UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1813 on 30 April. It called on the parties to show greater political will and to enter into more intensive and substantive negotiations towards a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Since then the contract appointing Peter Van Walsum as the United Nations Personal Envoy to Western Sahara has expired. The UK hopes that the UN Secretary General will appoint a new personal envoy shortly and that a further round of negotiations under the Manhasset process will take place soon. The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff, and the negotiation process currently underway and has called on the parties to maintain their commitment to the process.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last *(a)* assessed the political situation in the Western Sahara and *(b)* considered the different options in the UN Security Council. [245757]

Bill Rammell: UK officials at our embassies in Rabat and in Algiers continue to assess the situation in Western Sahara and in the Tindouf camps closely. Officials

based at the British embassy in Rabat visited Western Sahara in October 2008, calling on government officials, local NGOs and the UN peacekeeping mission, MINURSO. I anticipate further such visits in the future, as well as visits by UK officials to the camps in Tindouf.

We and other members of the UN Security Council considered the situation and the options available to the Council prior to the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1813, on 30 April 2008. In line with UNSC resolution 1813, we continue to support the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his staff to assist the parties in achieving a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe since October 2008; what discussions he has had with governments in the region on the matter; what assistance his Department has given to people affected by the outbreak; and if he will make a statement. [245081]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The United Nations (UN) in Zimbabwe issues daily and weekly updates on the cholera outbreak, which we are following closely. We are also monitoring the regional impact of the outbreak and the Department for International Development (DFID) offices in the region are in regular touch with Ministries of Health in the affected countries.

DFID is funding a £10 million package to help fight the cholera outbreak and support life-saving health services. DFID's support includes vital medicines, clean water supplies, purification tablets and rehydration fluids to treat those affected.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe. [243680]

Gillian Merron: The appalling humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe is a symptom of the wider political failure. Robert Mugabe's regime is unwilling to respond to the needs of Zimbabwe's people, who voted overwhelmingly for change last March. We continue to press for action to resolve the crisis via the EU and UN Security Council and with countries in the region and across Africa.

TRANSPORT

A303

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the Highways Agency's plans to close the A303 in Somerset and Wiltshire for 14 weeks from February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [246132]

Paul Clark: Following the Highways Agency's Public Information Days and Stakeholder Consultation, the agency has decided that a 14-week closure of the A303 is not the best way to effect the essential maintenance works required on the A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere. The agency is currently undertaking a full review of the scheme, which will include the construction programme, the extent and type of works, and the need to reduce the impact and inconvenience of this work to road users and the general public.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the proposed works to the A303 are not to be carried out in a manner that leaves one direction open to traffic; and if he will review the proposed working arrangements. [246152]

Paul Clark: Maintenance work on the single carriageway section of the A303 between Willoughby Hedge and Mere is essential because of the increasing number of road defects requiring immediate attention, together with the poor condition of existing drainage systems.

Single-lane working was considered by the Highways Agency but was not pursued because of concerns about road worker safety, duration of the works and likely traffic delays.

Following the agency's public information days and stakeholder consultation, the agency has decided that a 14 week closure of the A303 is not the best way to effect the essential maintenance works required on the A303 Willoughby Hedge to Mere. The agency is currently undertaking a full review of the scheme, which will include the construction programme, the extent and type of works and the need to reduce the impact and inconvenience of this work to road users and the general public.

Advertising: Complaints

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246655]

Mr. Hoon: Since the Department for Transport formed in 2002, 264 complaints had been made about 142 Department and executive agency advertisements or marketing initiatives. No complaints to date have been upheld by the ASA.

To break down the number of complaints by fiscal year would incur disproportionate costs.

Airwave Service: British Transport Police

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Airwave handsets issued to the British Transport Police (BTP) have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the BTP have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246185]

Paul Clark: The information is not held in the form requested. However, the British Transport Police inform me that the force introduced Airwave progressively over a five-year period starting in late 2002. Since 2002, 34 sets have been lost and another 94 have been withdrawn from service having been damaged beyond economic repair.

Airwave Service: Highways Agency

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Airwave handsets issued to the Highways Agency have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the Agency have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246187]

Paul Clark: The number of radio handsets lost is as follows:

	Pieces
2008	6
2007	4
2006	3
2005	[1]2

[1] Stolen from vehicle.

Note:
The Traffic Officer Service was not fully operational this year.

All of the aforementioned radio handsets were disabled by the service provider. The standard procedure in the event of loss is to contact the service provider (Airwave Solutions Ltd) and either 'stun' or 'kill' the radio, according to the circumstances of the loss.

No radio handsets have been disabled by the service provider because they were "broken". Such a radio would have the hardware replaced by the manufacturer, and re-registered with its new identity by the service provider. The 'International Short Subscriber Identity' (ISSI) remains unchanged.

No radio handsets have been disabled by the service provider "for other reasons".

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 480-81W, on aviation: exhaust emissions, (1) whether his forecast was based on an assumption that the growth of aviation after 2030 will be limited by capacity constraints; [246322]

(2) what capacity constraints are likely to limit the growth of aviation in the UK after 2030; [246324]

(3) what the figures would be if it were assumed that between 2030 and 2050 aviation were to continue to grow at the same rate as forecast up to 2030. [246323]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport's "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2007" report explains that forecast growth in air passenger demand will be limited by UK airport capacity constraints (page 11), and by the maturing of the air travel market (page 19).

The same report, on page 36, shows the terminal and capacity assumptions used in the forecasts. By 2050, it is forecast that all modelled airports in the South East and some others elsewhere in the UK will become capacity constrained.

The 2003 Air Transport White Paper supported the building of two new runways in the South East. On this basis, assuming that the pre-2030 growth rate continued to 2050 would not present a feasible view of the world post-2030, and therefore the Department for Transport does not have a CO_2 emissions forecast based on these assumptions.

Bus Lanes: Cambridgeshire

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* original and *(b)* latest estimated cost is of (i) the Cambridgeshire guided busway and (ii) the Luton-Dunstable busway. [246330]

Paul Clark: The original 2003 cost estimate submitted for Department for Transport (DFT) approval for the Cambridge Guided Busway was £73.8 million. When final approval for the scheme was provided in 2006, the revised cost was £116.2 million, which remains the current overall scheme cost estimated by Cambridgeshire county council.

The Luton-Dunstable Busway had an original cost of £84.39 million in 2003. That cost remains unchanged and is subject to scrutiny before final DFT approval currently expected in 2009.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes he expects the provisions of the Local Transport Act 2008 to make to the abilities of local authorities to subsidise local bus services for their community when brought into force; and what timetable he has set for the commencement of the Act's provisions. [245973]

Paul Clark: The Local Transport Act 2008 ("the 2008 Act") contains provisions to enhance the powers of local transport authorities in England and Wales to secure improvements to local bus services in their areas. Options for these authorities include through voluntary partnership agreements, quality partnership schemes and quality contracts (bus franchising) schemes.

Voluntary partnership agreements and quality partnership schemes offer the potential for local authorities to secure improvements to the standard of local bus services, alongside local authority investment in new or improved facilities for bus services and passengers. Quality contracts may provide for the payment of subsidy for the operation of local services under those contracts, and the 2008 Act includes provisions to make quality contracts schemes a more realistic option for local authorities.

Local transport authorities already have the power to enter into subsidised service agreements with bus operators, by virtue of section 9A of the Transport Act 1968 (for Passenger Transport Authorities) and section 63 of the Transport Act 1985 (for other local transport authorities). The 2008 Act amends these powers to allow subsidy agreements to be entered into, not only where services

would not be provided at all in the absence of subsidy (as at present), but also where they would not be provided to a particular standard. Provisions in the 2008 Act also increase the maximum permitted duration for subsidised service agreements from five to eight years.

Except where specific provision is made in section 134 of the 2008 Act, the provisions of that Act are to be brought into force by commencement order made by the Secretary of State (or in some cases by the Welsh Ministers, in so far as provisions apply in Wales). The first commencement order is expected to be made early in 2009.

Bus Services: Schools

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what his Department's policy is on the placement of bus stops for school transport alongside dual carriageways; and if he will make a statement; [244829]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the road safety aspects of the placement of bus stops for school transport; and if he will make a statement. [244826]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport provides general guidance on bus stop provision, including road safety considerations, in chapter 8 of "Local Transport Note 1/97: Keeping Buses Moving". This is available on the Department for Transport website at

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/.

The guidance does not provide specific advice on the placement of bus stops for school transport.

Decisions on placement of bus stops are a matter for the local highway authority in consultation with bus operators and other interested parties such as the police.

Cycling

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has issued guidance to those local authorities involved in the cycling demonstration towns initiative on measuring changes in the use of cycling as a means of transport. [245882]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport awarded a contract in February 2006 to Sustrans Research and Monitoring Unit together with the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds and the University of Bolton to undertake monitoring of cycle levels in the Cycling Demonstration Towns (CDTs). A part of that contract is to work closely with each local authority in establishing an effective monitoring regime.

The Department also contracted a specialist cycling advice team to give free advice to local authorities, including the CDTs, on a range of infrastructure issues. The advice team has provided guidance on the monitoring and evaluation of cycling activities, which is available on Cycling England, our advisory body's website at:

http://www.cyclingengland.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/c05_monitoring.pdf

The CDT programme was expanded in June 2008 to 18 cities and towns. The department awarded a further contract in November 2008 to Sustrans to monitor cycle levels in the expanded programme and expect to shortly award a contract to evaluate the impact that increased cycle levels has on a range of issues such as health, congestion and road safety in these places.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Road Traffic

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has assessed the effects upon traffic congestion of the increase in tolls at the Dartford River Crossing; and if he will make a statement. [245883]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 212W.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246668]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244717]

Mr. Hoon: The information is as follows.

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence Departments should abide by the guidance as set out in "Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies" which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005.

(b) In respect of e-mails, the Department for Transport will not be able to provide the information within the disproportionate cost limit (£750) as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245329]

Mr. Hoon: The information is not held in the form of a percentage as requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) wrote to the Department's major IT suppliers who handle personal data on the subject of data handling on 23 June 2008. All 12 have responded, assuring the SIRO of compliance with the measures in the Data Handling Procedures in Government report.

Those suppliers and all others involved in collecting, handling or storing the Department's information assets are required to provide assurance to the DfT SIRO and board on a quarterly basis, through the Department's Information Asset Owners, that they have implemented the appropriate measures.

For new contracts with contractors and suppliers, the Department is implementing the appropriate OGC guidance including new contract clauses.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245370]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport appointed a Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) in 2004 as part of the Government's approach to dealing with risks and threats to information systems, lead by the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance (CSIA). The appointment was a board member at director general level, grade SCSPB3.

The responsibilities of the SIRO were revised to take account of the mandatory minimum actions from the Data Handling Procedures in Government report, published in June 2008.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245392]

Mr. Hoon: The percentage of IT systems in the central Department that are currently fully accredited to HMG standards is 67 per cent. The remainder are currently in the process of being brought into accreditation.

The percentage of IT systems in the Department's seven executive agencies and its shared service centre that are currently fully accredited to HMG standards is 71 per cent. A further 26 per cent. are in the process of being brought into accreditation. The remaining IT systems are under review for accreditation or to be decommissioned.

The accreditation of the Department's IT systems is a continuous process, as new systems are brought into service and existing systems are required to be periodically re-accredited, or in response to changes in services, technology or the security threats.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244602]

Mr. Hoon: The Government's Delivery Plan for 'Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate', published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the delivery plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246020]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport holds information on the gender, ethnic origin, age and disability of the majority of its staff. Information is also recorded on sexual orientation and religion and belief although a significant proportion of staff have chosen to withhold this information.

This information, and information on the Department's performance against its targets, are published in the Department's annual report. The report is available online at:

www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ar2008.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244355]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. The Department has spent £45,787,332 on furniture with British based firms, £31,250 with Remploy and £257,204 with overseas firms since 2002. The breakdown is as follows:

	Sector	*Spend (£)*
2002-03	British Firms	4,064,176
	Remploy	0
	Overseas Firms	0
2003-04	British Firms	11,511,281
	Remploy	27,222
	Overseas Firms	0
2004-05	British Firms	13,539,857
	Remploy	4,028
	Overseas Firms	0
2005-06	British Firms	5,935,787
	Remploy	0
	Overseas Firms	257,204
2006-07	British Firms	5,976,967
	Remploy	0
	Overseas Firms	0
2007-08	British Firms	4,759,264
	Remploy	0
	Overseas Firms	0

The Department for Transport utilises the Office of Government Commerce Buying Solutions office furniture contract for the vast majority of its furniture purchases. All companies on that contract are British based or have British operating arms.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department work on his Department's policy on *(a)* walking, *(b)* cycling, *(c)* motoring, *(d)* aviation and *(e)* rail. [243052]

Mr. Hoon: As the Department takes an integrated, cross-modal approach to transport policy, civil servants will often work on several modes. Accordingly a percentage breakdown of the amount of time civil servants work on each of the different modes could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of DfT(C)'s staff recorded as being *(a)* from an ethnic minority and *(b)* white (i) applied for and (ii) obtained posts within DfT(C) on promotion in each year since DfT(C)'s formation. [244455]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport (Central) recorded the following percentage of (ii) obtained posts on promotion for staff from an *(a)* ethnic minority and *(b)* white origin:

Financial year	*Ethnicity*	*Percentage of staff promoted within ethnic group*
2002-03	Ethnic minority	4.25
	White	4.60
2003-04	Ethnic minority	6.61
	White	8.47
2004-05	Ethnic minority	5.34
	White	6.56
2005-06	Ethnic minority	10.75
	White	7.10
2006-07	Ethnic minority	6.30
	White	8.04
2007-08	Ethnic minority	10.51
	White	7.07

Details of (i) applications for such positions can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of each grade recorded as being *(a)* from an ethnic minority, *(b)* white and *(c)* of unknown or undeclared ethnicity transferred into DfT(C) from other parts of his Department or other Government Departments in the last two years. [244456]

Mr. Hoon: 154 people have transferred in to the Department for Transport (Central) from other parts of his Department or other Government Departments during the last two financial years (2006-07 and 2007-08) as shown in the following table:

Grade	*Ethnicity*	*Number directly recruited from other Government Departments*
PB1	Ethnic minority	0
	White	0
	Unknown/ undeclared	0
PB2	Ethnic minority	1
	White	5
	Unknown/ undeclared	6
PB3	Ethnic minority	4
	White	5
	Unknown/ undeclared	9
PB4	Ethnic minority	6
	White	25
	Unknown/ undeclared	15
PB5	Ethnic minority	2
	White	10
	Unknown/ undeclared	1
PB6	Ethnic minority	2
	White	23
	Unknown/ undeclared	16
PB7	Ethnic minority	2
	White	3
	Unknown/ undeclared	5
SCSPB1	Ethnic minority	0
	White	13
	Unknown/ undeclared	0
SCSPB2	Ethnic minority	0
	White	0
	Unknown/ undeclared	0
SCSPB3	Ethnic minority	0
	White	1
	Unknown/ undeclared	0
Total	Ethnic minority	17
	White	85
	Unknown/ undeclared	52

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of each grade recorded as being *(a)* from an ethnic minority, *(b)* white and *(c)* of unknown or undeclared ethnicity were directly recruited into DfT(C) from outside the Civil Service in the last two years. [244457]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport (Central) has recruited 175 staff from outside the civil service during the last two financial years (2006-07 and 2007-08), as shown in the following table:

Grade	*Ethnicity*	*Number directly recruited from outside the civil service*
PB1	Ethnic Minority	0
	White	0
	Unknown/ Undeclared	0
PB2	Ethnic Minority	0

Grade	Ethnicity	Number directly recruited from outside the civil service
	White	3
	Unknown/ Undeclared	11
PB3	Ethnic Minority	7
	White	4
	Unknown/ Undeclared	2
PB4	Ethnic Minority	4
	White	47
	Unknown/ Undeclared	26
PB5	Ethnic Minority	1
	White	11
	Unknown/ Undeclared	4
PB6	Ethnic Minority	2
	White	22
	Unknown/ Undeclared	16
PB7	Ethnic Minority	1
	White	5
	Unknown/ Undeclared	0
SCSPB1	Ethnic Minority	0
	White	3
	Unknown/ Undeclared	1
SCSPB2	Ethnic Minority	0
	White	4
	Unknown/ Undeclared	1
SCSPB3	Ethnic Minority	0
	White	0
	Unknown/ Undeclared	0
Total	Ethnic Minority	15
	White	99
	Unknown/ Undeclared	61

Departmental Reviews

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultation and *(c)* taskforces his Department is (i) responsible for and (ii) planning to undertake or establish; on what date each such initiative that is in progress (A) started and (B) is expected to be completed; and what the purpose is of each. [246309]

Mr. Hoon: Details of the Department for Transport's current consultations, reviews and taskforces have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246983]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has one 0845 number, the Executive Agencies have three.

Driving: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley had driving licences suspended in each of the last three years. [245459]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not readily hold this information in the requested format.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new *(a)* provisional and *(b)* full driving licences were issued to residents of (i) Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and (ii) the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last three years. [245460]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency does not readily hold this information in the requested format.

First Great Western: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proposals there are to change staffing levels at stations operated by First Great Western on the line from London to Swindon and Bristol Parkway; and if he will make a statement. [246395]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State has not been informed of any proposals to change staffing levels at stations operated by First Great Western between London and Bristol Parkway.

Gatwick Airport

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the 1979 agreement between BAA and West Sussex County Council would continue to bind any new owner of Gatwick Airport and prevent them from building a new runway before 2019. [246411]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government take the view that the 1979 agreement binds British Aviation Authority (BAA) and would bind any new owner of the airport. If any new owner of the airport wished to overturn the agreement, the first step for it would be to approach West Sussex county council and seek their agreement. In the absence of agreement, it would be possible for the new owner to ask the Lands Tribunal to overturn the agreement.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has taken part in discussions with BAA on proposals to build a second runway at Gatwick Airport once the Gatwick Agreement runs out in 2019. [246412]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No such discussions have taken place.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people attended the air quality technical meeting on 28 September 2007 regarding the project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow; which organisations those individuals were representing; and if he will make a statement. [246774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The air quality technical group, which met for the last time on 28 September 2007, comprised representatives from consultants CERC, AEA Technology and Atkins along with representatives from British Aviation Authority (BAA) and officials from the Department for Transport.

Helicopters: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many private helicopter movements there were in the air space above Greater London in each year since 1997. [246825]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not hold such information on private helicopter movements. However in response to the London Assembly Environment Committee's report—'London in a Spin; a Review of Helicopter Noise' in October 2006, the Department agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority that NATS would provide data on helicopter movements over London. This information is now published at regular intervals on the CAA website at the following link:

www.caa.co.uk.

The tables published by CAA show data for helicopter movements within the London (Heathrow) and London City control zones (CTRs) from January 2007 to date.

As regards information prior to January 2007, the London Assembly report included a year-by-year total for the period 1997 to 2006 for commercial and non-commercial helicopter movements at Metro London Heliport at Battersea.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the findings of the Humber Bridge Tolls Impact Assessment; and if he will make a statement. [244776]

Paul Clark: The study will be included in the evidence presented to the Inspector as part of the public inquiry on the application by the Humber Bridge Board to revise tolls at the Humber bridge. In these circumstances it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the study and its findings.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the public inquiry into the proposed increase in the cost of the Humber Bridge Tolls to be held; and if he will make a statement. [244777]

Paul Clark: The Humber Bridge Board will shortly issue a public notice giving the date and location for the public inquiry.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244025]

Paul Clark: We are pleased to see the report of this project. While it makes no specific recommendations relating to the Department for Transport's policy responsibilities, we will work with the lead Departments and others as necessary to help give effect to the recommendations. The findings will inform and assist the Department in developing policies to meet the travel needs of particular groups such as older or disabled people.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the accuracy of information held on the Motor Insurance Database. [245914]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The provision of data to the Motor Insurance Database is the responsibility of the insurance industry. The Department for Transport data submission requirements for the insurance industry are for 95 per cent. of new records to be on the database within seven days. The industry estimates that nearly 99 per cent. of all appropriate records are now placed on the database within seven days.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246339]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport Centre and its agencies do not maintain a record of the number of former prisoners that are employed.

Recruitment to the Department for Transport follows the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code. There are character checks and security vetting, and a criminal record does not automatically disqualify an individual from appointment or vetting clearance.

Parking: Fines

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of outstanding parking adjudication cases in London; and what the equivalent figures were *(a)* 12 and *(b)* 24 months previously. [245835]

Paul Clark: The Government do not hold this information. The Parking and Traffic Adjudication Service (PATAS) is responsible for making adjudication decisions in London. London councils provides the administrative and hearing centre service for PATAS.

Railway Stations: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to *(a)* reopen closed rail stations and *(b)* open new rail stations in the South West; and if he will make a statement. [245001]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no plans to reopen closed stations or open new stations in the South West. It is for local transport authorities to promote the opening of new stations if they believe this is the best way of meeting local transport needs.

Railways: Construction

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of Maglev technology in the British rail network. [245000]

Paul Clark: The July 2007 Rail White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", set out the Government's strategy to improve the quality of inter-urban rail services, and to make the best use of existing networks by lengthening existing trains, increasing service frequencies and tackling key congestion pinch points.

The White Paper proposals are measured against the key tests of capacity, quality of service, value for money and environment. Increasing capacity is key, particularly in those services experiencing crowding.

The White Paper was clear that Maglev would offer less flexibility than a conventional railway to adapt to future changing patterns of demand. For example, it would be unable to accommodate other rail services. While Maglev currently operates on a relatively short point-to-point basis, scaling the technology up to a national network is unproven.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to promote high speed rail links to the North East. [245012]

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with rail operators in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other European countries to discuss the potential for high speed rail in the UK; [244998]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to promote and implement a trans-European high speed rail network; [244999]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the potential economic effects of a north-south high speed rail line in the UK. [245136]

Paul Clark: The Government's immediate priority is increasing capacity on the existing rail network and £10 billion will be invested from 2009 to 2014 on measures to bring this about.

In March 2008, the Secretary of State for Transport invited Network Rail to examine options for supporting further growth in the longer term, which might include new lines. The National Networks Strategy Group, chaired by Lord Adonis and outlined in the written ministerial statement laid by the Secretary of State on 29 October 2008, is available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/wmsnationalnetworks

will build on Network Rail's work as part of the group's focus on longer term solutions for strategic transport corridors.

Railways: Electrification

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consideration has been given by his Department to the electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak London overground railway line; and if he will make a statement. [246937]

Paul Clark: A rail industry working group led by Network Rail is examining the business case for electrifying a range of routes such as Gospel Oak to Barking. The group is expected to publish its conclusions by the end of March 2009.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to improve rail freight facilities in Nottinghamshire. [243957]

Paul Clark: We are investing in developing a Strategic Freight Network to meet the industry's growth forecasts of 30 per cent. over the next decade, as set out in the 2007 Rail White Paper. Network Rail is leading an industry working group to identify specific enhancement projects and will publish details in their Strategic Business Plan in March 2009.

Railways: Greater London

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason the planned work to upgrade the Barking to Gospel Oak railway line has been delayed until 2013-14. [246420]

Paul Clark: This project has not been delayed to 2013-14.

The Government have provided a grant of £18.5 million from the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund and asked Network Rail to deliver capability and capacity improvements on the Barking to Gospel Oak line.

Railways: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will invite the British Rail Residual Property Board to sell for a notional sum to Lancashire County Council the rail track bed between Colne and Foulridge; and if he will make a statement. [244163]

Paul Clark: It is for Lancashire county council and BRB (Residuary) Ltd. to reach an agreement on the commercial terms for the sale of the track bed between Colne and Foulridge to the council. Terms were quoted by BRB (Residuary) Ltd.'s agent, Lambert Smith Hampton, on 31 July 2008 and the county have six months from that date to reach an agreement. I urge the council to enter into negotiations with BRB (Residuary) Ltd.'s agents for the acquisition of the land.

Railways: Marketing

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on publicity for rail services in each year since 1997. [245476]

Mr. Hoon: Figures are only available since the Department for Transport (DFT) was formed in 2002-03.

Up until 2006, responsibility for publicity on rail services rested with the Strategic Rail Authority who spent the following on advertising:

	£000
2002-03	95
2003-04	505
2004-05	25

Aside from statutory advertising, we have not incurred advertising expenditure promoting rail services since the amalgamation of the SRA into DFT.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that Network Rail meets its targets for renewal efficiency. [245437]

Paul Clark: It falls to the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) to determine and monitor delivery of the targets to improve Network Rail's renewals efficiency, which the ORR sets for each five-year control period.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets he has set for passenger satisfaction on each rail franchise; and how train operating companies performed against these targets in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [245439]

Paul Clark: All train operating companies are required through their franchise agreements to participate in the National Passenger Survey which measures passenger satisfaction. Passenger Focus publish the results on their website:

http://www.passengerfocus.org.uk/research/nps/content.asp.

National Passenger Survey targets are set for the following franchises: Arriva Trains Wales; Chiltern Railways; Southern and TransPennine Express. These train operating companies are required to produce and implement action plans related to their National Passenger Survey results as required. The National Passenger Survey targets are found in the franchise agreements for each of these train operating companies; available on the DfT website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current.

National Passenger Survey targets are not set for other train operating companies. Other train operating companies (except for c2c) measure the inputs to passenger satisfaction in a service quality management system. They may still be required to produce and implement action plans related to their National Passenger Survey results as required.

c2c have targets, and are required to produce action plans as required, based on their own Customer Satisfaction Survey (not National Passenger Survey). The targets are in the c2c franchise agreement which is available on the DfT website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/passenger/publicregister/current

Performance against the targets is shown in the following tables.

c2c CSS results

	2006				2007			
	January	*April*	*July*	*October*	*January*	*April*	*July*	*October*
CSS factors corresponding with NPS Top 12 Factors								
Punctuality	94	96	96	97	93	96	97	97
Benchmark to 04/00—punctuality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—punctuality	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—punctuality	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Cancellations	86	90	89	90	85	87	92	90
Benchmark to 04/00—cancellations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—cancellations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—cancellations	81	81	81	81	81	81	81	81
Overall value for money	84	87	89	89	84	87	88	89
Benchmark to 04/00—value for money	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—value for money	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—value for money	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85
Availability of information	78	81	84	81	79	75	86	81
Benchmark to 04/00—availability of information	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—availability of information	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—availability of information	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78

c2c CSS results

	2006				2007			
	January	April	July	October	January	April	July	October
Seat availability (peak)	76	82	89	78	79	79	82	77
Benchmark to 04/00—seat availability	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—seat availability	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—seat availability	78	78	78	78	78	78	78	78
Condition of stations	88	89	91	91	90	91	92	91
Benchmark to 04/00—condition of stations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—condition of stations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—condition of stations	91	91	91	91	91	91	91	91
CSS factors corresponding with NPS on train factors								
Interior cleanliness	93	96	95	95	95	94	95	94
Benchmark to 04/00—interior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—interior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—interior cleanliness	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Exterior cleanliness	95	96	96	97	96	97	97	96
Benchmark to 04/00—exterior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—exterior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—exterior cleanliness	90	90	90	90	90	90	90	90
Other CSS factors/factors corresponding with both NPS station & on train factors								
Helpfulness of staff	91	91	94	92	95	93	93	93
Benchmark to 04/00—helpfulness of staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—helpfulness of staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—helpfulness of staff	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Quality of service improving	68	76	76	77	68	72	75	74
Benchmark to 04/00—quality of service improving	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—quality of service improving	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—quality of service improving	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Meeting customer needs	79	82	82	84	82	83	85	85
Benchmark to 04/00—meeting customer needs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—meeting customer needs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—meeting customer needs	85	85	85	85	85	85	85	85

	2008					
	January	April	July	Benchmark	Better = + Worse = -	Year on year
CSS factors corresponding with NPS Top 12 Factors						
Punctuality	96	96	98	90	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—punctuality	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—punctuality	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—punctuality	90	90	90	—	—	—
Cancellations	88	88	89	81	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—cancellations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—cancellations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—cancellations	81	81	81	—	—	—
Overall value for money	86	86	89	85	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—value for money	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—value for money	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—value for money	85	85	85	—	—	—

	2008					
	January	*April*	*July*	*Benchmark*	*Better + + Worse - -*	*Year on year*
Availability of information	78	78	86	78	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—availability of information	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—availability of information	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—availability of information	78	78	78	—	—	—
Seat availability (peak)	74	74	82	74	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—seat availability	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—seat availability	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—seat availability	78	78	78	—	—	—
Condition of stations	90	90	91	91	+	-
Benchmark to 04/00—condition of stations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—condition of stations	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—condition of stations	91	91	91	—	—	—
CSS factors corresponding with NPS on train factors						
Interior cleanliness	95	95	97	90	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—interior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—interior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—interior cleanliness	90	90	90	—	—	—
Exterior cleanliness	97	97	97	90	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—exterior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—exterior cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—exterior cleanliness	90	90	90	—	—	—
Other CSS factors/factors corresponding with both NPS station & on train factors						
Helpfulness of staff	92	92	93	92	+	+
Benchmark to 04/00—helpfulness of staff	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—helpfulness of staff	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—helpfulness of staff	92	92	92	—	—	—
Quality of service improving	73	73	73	70	+	-
Benchmark to 04/00—quality of service improving	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—quality of service improving	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—quality of service improving	70	70	70	—	—	—
Meeting customer needs	83	83	84	85	-	-
Benchmark to 04/00—meeting customer needs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/00—meeting customer needs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benchmark from 04/03—meeting customer needs	85	85	85	—	—	—

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of trends in the possession disruption indices for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* rail freight services over the next five years. [245702]

Paul Clark: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made no estimate of trends in the possession disruption indices for passenger and rail freight services over the next five years.

However, the independent Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has set performance trajectories for Network Rail in its document, published on 30 October 2008, "Periodic review 2008: Determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14". The effect is to require a progressive reduction in disruption to passengers so that by the end of Control Period 4 (2014) there is 37 per cent. less disruption to passengers than in 2007-08, and, at the same time, no increase in the level of disruption experienced by freight operators. Further details can be found on page 53 onwards of the document which is available on the ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/383.pdf.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the loss to the economy caused by delays to rail services in the first six months of the 2008-09 financial year. [246403]

Paul Clark: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not estimated the economic cost of rail service delays in the first six months of the 2008-09 financial year.

However, at the end of the first six periods of 2008-09 the industry's annual reliability and punctuality performance measured by the public performance measure (PPM) had reached 90.4 per cent. in England and Wales, a 1.8 per cent. improvement on the previous year. The Government's high level output specification requires the industry to achieve public performance measure of 92.6 per cent. by 2014.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce the Swiss model of re-railing. [246404]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not manage the detailed approach to track maintenance including re-railing.

This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 38W, on roads: accidents, how many and what proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women between 15 and 24 years old were killed in a road traffic accident in each local authority area in England in each of the last 10 years. [246214]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the numbers and proportion of *(a)* men and *(b)* women between 15 and 24-years-old that were killed in a reported personal injury road traffic accident in each local authority area in England in each of the last 10 years have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many modern operable train units are currently in storage. [245435]

Paul Clark: This is a question which should be directed at the train leasing companies who are the owners of rolling stock vehicles. However, it is our belief that the number of modern operable units off lease is very small.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new carriages each train operating company has requested following his Department's announcement in January 2008 of its intention to increase rolling stock by 1,300 units. [245438]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport published a Rolling Stock Plan in January 2008, and issued an update in July 2008, setting out indicative numbers of vehicles to be allocated to each train operating company. These numbers are subject to change in negotiation with each company, but changes to numbers will not be announced unless and until commercial agreement is reached with each company. Discussions are now in progress with the train operating companies.

Shipping: Sea Rescue

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many tugs are on standby in UK ports to assist vessels in distress around the coast. [246096]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has four dedicated emergency towing vessels on stand-by all year round to respond to shipping incidents. These are based in the Northern Isles, the Minches, the south-west approaches and the Dover Straits.

In addition to these dedicated resources the MCA can use the Coastguard Agreement on Salvage and Towage (CAST) to call upon the services of 92 tugs in ports and harbours throughout the UK.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245722]

Mr. Hoon: The general publishing policy guidance for the Department for Transport staff producing printed material for people with visual disorders highlight the need to avoid light typefaces, use of 14 pt type and maximising contrast of colours as much as possible.

Specific guidance related to red/green colour blindness include using where possible;

dark colours on light background;
increased contrast between colours and type;
use of stripes, hatching etc in place of colours;
avoidance of red/green adjacent to each other.

South West Trains: Railway Stations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will reject the proposals of South West Trains to reduce opening hours at over 100 of its stations. [246113]

Paul Clark: A formal application to review ticket office hours has been received from South West Trains and will be subject to consideration by the Secretary of State under normal industry processes.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which elected representatives *(a)* scrutinise the actions of safety camera partnerships and *(b)* determine their (i) policies and (ii) expenditure. [245974]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local safety partnerships, including safety camera partnerships, generally include representatives of local authorities and the police, both of whom are accountable to locally elected representatives. They may employ whatever arrangements for scrutiny and management that they see fit.

Tolls: Greater Manchester

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of exploring the option of a Manchester congestion charge. [245876]

Paul Clark: From 2005-06 to 2007-08 10 areas shared £18 million funding to consider options for the Transport Innovation Fund and to develop proposals, of which the Greater Manchester authorities were awarded £4.7 million. In addition, in awarding Programme Entry to the Greater Manchester proposals on 9 June 2008 we made available an additional £20 million for 2008-09 to support further development costs.

Tonnage Tax

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider strengthening the training requirement associated with the tonnage tax. [244740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have currently no plans to increase the number of officers companies are required to train under the tonnage tax commitment.

We are however looking into the practicalities of the joint proposals for increased support for training and employment received from our social partners.

Transport: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government plans to take to alleviate congestion on *(a)* roads and *(b)* railways in the North East. [244890]

Paul Clark: We are investing significantly across the North East to improve transport and alleviate congestion. Total expenditure on transport in the North East has increased by 30 per cent. in the five years to 2007-08—from £481 million in 2002-03 to £623 million in 2007-08.

On the roads, local authorities take decisions on local measures and investment needed to alleviate congestion on their roads. In addition to this, North East schemes in the current regional funding allocation being progressed by the Highways Agency include the A69 Haydon bridge bypass, which is in construction and improvements to four A19 junctions through Tyneside. The Highways Agency is also looking at options for addressing congestion problems on the A1 Newcastle Gateshead and Western bypass, but any scheme is likely to be complex and take time to deliver, and must be developed in parallel with the Tyne and Wear authorities' proposals for addressing local traffic problems. In addition we expect, subject to satisfactory business cases, to invest over £70 million over the next five years in major bus priority infrastructure schemes in Tyne and Wear, Tees Valley and Durham. These are aimed at attracting more people to public transport by improving the journey time and reliability of buses.

On rail, the Rail White Paper committed to introducing additional rail capacity to meet peak demand in the Northern cities, including Newcastle. The DfT Rolling Stock Plan published in January 2008 showed that around 42 additional carriages would be available for TransPennine Express and around 182 additional carriages for the Northern franchise. Both these franchises serve the North East. We will also be investing over £290 million on the renewal of the Tyne and Wear Metro system between 2010 and 2019.

West Coast Railway Line

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Virgin Trains on passenger capacity on their West Coast Main Line services; what *(a)* legislative provisions and *(b)* guidance issued by his Department govern the number of persons who may be accommodated in one unit of passenger rolling stock, with particular reference to health and safety requirements; what sanctions apply to train operating companies which operate services on which such limits are exceeded; and if he will make a statement. [245090]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State met with Sir Richard Branson (Virgin Trains) and Mr. Brian Souter (Stagecoach) on 19 November to discuss the upgrade of the West Coast Main Line. This upgrade of the infrastructure has allowed the new timetable, which started on 14 December 2008, to increase capacity on many of the West Coast Main Line services, most notably a 50 per cent. increase of services between London and Birmingham/Manchester and a 70 per cent. increase for these services on the weekends.

There are no legislative provisions regarding crowding on trains. The Office of the Rail Regulator states that there is no legal limit on the number of passengers that can travel in any given train coach. In this, trains differ from other modes of transport—most notably buses and aeroplanes. The heavy engineering involved means that trains are designed to operate effectively and safely even when they are fully loaded to maximum capacity. The number of passengers on board does not affect a train's operating performance or structural integrity.

Some train operators have a capacity benchmark regime. This does not apply to Virgin Trains.

West Coast Railway Line: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department has taken to ensure that there is minimal disruption over the Christmas period from improvements works to the West Coast Main Line. [246165]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has had regular meetings with both Network Rail and the train operators as they have made their preparations for the introduction of the new West Coast Main Line timetables. This preparation included a special commissioning timetable which covers the Christmas period.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant in aid Arts Council England received in each year since 1980. [246417]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has received the following grant in aid funding since their creation in 1994.

Arts Council grant in aid funding

	Outturn (£ million)
1994-95	189
1995-96	194
1996-97	179
1997-98	179
1998-99	180
1999-2000	213
2000-01	238
2001-02	252
2002-03	290
2003-04	326
2004-05	370
2005-06	409
2006-07	428
2007-08	423

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding Arts Council England has distributed for use on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* non-capital projects in each year since its inception. [246327]

Barbara Follett: Information from Arts Council England is that it has distributed national lottery funding for use on *(a)* capital projects and *(b)* non-capital projects as set out in the following table.

£

Decision year	*Capital programmes*	*Mixed and revenue programmes*	*Total*
1994-95	849,149	—	849,149
1995-96	316,945,383	7,928,949	324,874,332
1996-97	362,649,941	39,874,827	402,524,768
1997-98	209,358,733	88,645,785	298,004,518
1998-99	48,324,119	61,853,853	110,177,972
1999-2000	121,884,596	95,989,522	217,874,118
2000-01	45,008,302	84,745,783	129,754,085
2001-02	140,531,073	92,360,495	232,891,568
2002-03	12,987,225	110,227,080	123,214,305
2003-04	129,319,847	68,312,427	197,632,274
2004-05	34,319,085	85,664,780	119,983,865
2005-06	5,543,874	87,153,283	92,697,157
2006-07	—	97,724,825	97,724,825
2007-08	—	46,722,005	46,722,005
Total	1,427,721,327	967,203,614	2,394,924,941

Arts Council of England: Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* keywords and *(b)* terms (i) Arts Council England, (ii) the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, (iii) the Big Lottery Fund, (iv) English Heritage and (v) the Heritage Lottery Fund have monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [240952]

Barbara Follett: The information has been supplied by the organisations requested and is set out in a sequence of lists with details per organisation.

Arts Council England

Arts Council England has reported that it does not have records of terms that were used over the last three years, as terms are added and removed on an ongoing basis. The list as of 1 January 2009 is set out as follows. The list also contains a number of Regularly Funded Organisations, which is updated depending on levels of media interest and coverage:

Arts Council England
ACE
Tessa Jowell
Arts—Government policy
Artsmark
Big Lottery Fund
Creative Partnerships
Heritage Lottery
Own Art
UK Film Council
The National Lottery
Comprehensive Spending Review
Cultural Leadership Programme
Young People's Arts Award
London Architecture Biennale
Liverpool Capital of Culture
Take it Away
Arts Debate
Architecture Week
Arts Award
James Purnell (only reports on former role as Secretary of State for DCMS)
Andy Burnham
Margaret Hodge
Open Doors
London 2012
DCMS
Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Well London
Art08
Theatre
Living Places
Legacy Trust
Big Dance
Fourth Plinth

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)

The MLA has reported that it does not have records of the key words used for 2006 and 2007, but the list as at 1 January 2009 is as follows:

MLA
Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
Acceptance In Lieu Scheme
Roy Clare
Margaret Hodge

Andy Burnham
Better stock, Better libraries
BSBL
Framework for the Future
Love Libraries
Mark Wood
Museums—designated status
Obituaries
People's network
Portable antiquities
Renaissance in the regions
Archives—nationals
Archives
Libraries—nationals
Libraries
Museums—nationals
Museums
Conservation art
Conservation Awards
Department for Culture, the Media and Sport
Exports of works of art
Political policy-culture and the arts
Public Record Office
Cultural Olympiad—nationals
Cultural Olympiad
Museum Accreditation Scheme
Museum Designation Scheme
Arts funding
Art sales

The Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund has reported key words for each of the three years. They are set out in the lists:

2006

Active England
Advice Services
Awards for All
BASIS
Big Lottery Fund
Change UR Future
Changing Spaces
Children's Play
Community Buildings Community Libraries
Community Fund
Do It 4 Real
Fair Share
Family Learning
Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities
Growing Community Assets
Heroes Return
International Grants
Investing in Communities
Living Landmarks
Millennium Commission
National Lottery Good Cause Distributors
New Opportunities Fund
Parks for People
People's Millions
Reaching Communities Research Grants
The Big Lottery Fund
Their Past Your Future
Transforming Waste
Transforming your Space
Veterans Reunited
Well-being
Young People's Fund

2007

Active England
Activities for Young People
Advice Plus
All Coverage of Lottery Money Being Used to Fund the 2012 London Olympics
Awards for All
BASIS
Big Lottery Fund
Big Lottery Fund (Nationals)
Breathing Places
Cancer Equipment
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Change UR Future
Changing Spaces
Children's Play Initiative
Children's Play Programme
Community Buildings
Community Fund
Community Libraries
Defibrillators
Do It 4 Real
Fair Share
Family Learning
Five A Day
Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities
Growing Community Assets
Healthy Living Centres
Heroes Return
Home Front Recall
Improving Community Buildings
International Grants
Investing in Communities
Live and Learn
Living Landmarks Millennium Awards
Millennium Commission
Millennium Projects
Millennium Trust
National Lottery
National Lottery Good Cause Distributors
New Opportunities for PE and Sport
New Opportunities Fund
NOF—digitise
NOF Digitisation Programme
Olympics (only in connection with BIG)
Olympics (in relation to National Lottery Good Causes)
Parks for People
People's Millions
Play England Project
Playful Ideas
Primetime
Reaching Communities
Research Grants

Safe and Well
School Sports Co-ordinators
The Big Lottery Fund
The Dome
The People's Network
Their Past Your Future
Transforming Waste
Transforming your Space
UK Online Centres
Veterans Reunited
War Veterans
Well-being
Young People's Fund
Your pound your choice

2008

Active England
Activities for Young People
Advice Plus
All Coverage of Lottery Money Being Used to Fund the 2012 London Olympics
Awards for All
BASIS
BASIS 2
BIG Lottery Fund
Big Lottery Fund (Nationals)
Breathing Places
Building Research Establishment
Change UR Future
Changing Spaces
Children's Play Initiative
Children's Play Programme
Community Assets
Community Buildings
Community Fund
Community Libraries
Community Recycling and Economic Development
Fair Share
Family Learning
Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities
Groundwork UK
Growing Community Assets
Healthy Living Centres
Heroes Return
Home Front Recall
Improving Community Buildings
International Grants
Investing in Communities
Legacy Trust
Live and Learn
Living Landmarks
Millennium Awards
Millennium Commission
Millennium Projects
Millennium Trust
MIND
myplace
National Lottery
National Lottery Good Cause Distributors
Natural England
New Opportunities for PE and Sport
New Opportunities Fund
NOPES
Olympics (in relation to National Lottery Good Causes)
Olympics (only in connection with BIG)
Parks for People
People's Millions
People's £50 Million Contest
People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway
Playful Ideas
Primetime
Reaching Communities
Research Grants
RSWT
Safe and Well
School Sports Co-ordinators
Sustrans
The Big Lottery Fund
Their Past Your Future
Transforming Waste
Transforming your Space
UK School Games
Veterans Reunited
War Veterans
Well-being
www.thepeoples50million.org.uk
Young People's Fund

English Heritage

English Heritage has reported that a single list of key words was used during the last three years. It is set out in the list:

Archaeology
Architecture
Blue Plaques
Buildings
Builds At Risk
Cabe
Cathedrals/Churches
Chiswick House and Gardens Trust
Conservation Areas
Cutty Sark
Development (of Old Buildings)
English Heritage
Farm Buildings
Hadrian's Wall
Heritage Counts
Heritage Lottery Fund
Kenilworth Castle
Kenwood
Listed Buildings
Lord Sandy Bruce Lockhart
National Trust
Osborne House
Planning
Regeneration
Simon Thurley
Stonehenge
World Heritage Sites

English Heritage has also reported that it monitors the names of relevant Ministers and the list is updated as appropriate. Monitored names from 2006 to 1 January 2009 are listed as follows.

Andy Burnham
Caroline Flint
Hazel Blears
Margaret Hodge
Tessa Jowell
James Purnell
Hillary Benn
Ruth Kelly
Barbara Follett

Heritage Lottery Fund

Heritage Lottery Fund has reported key words used in each of the last three years. They are set out as follows.

2006

Heritage Lottery Fund
National Heritage Memorial Fund

2007

Heritage Lottery Fund
National Heritage Memorial Fund

2008

Heritage Lottery Fund National
Heritage Memorial Fund
Portrait of a Nation

Betting Shops

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to give local authorities powers in relation to the siting of betting shops. [245144]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Following public concern about the clustering of betting shops in certain areas and the potential risks this might pose for vulnerable people, the Government outlined plans for DCMS to look into the scope and extent of this issue in "Fair Rules for Strong Communities" which was published on 2 December 2008. DCMS will work with DCLG to investigate the issues and ensure that the licensing and planning systems are thoroughly examined.

Under the Gambling Act 2005, licensing authorities have the power to reject premises licence applications or to attach conditions to licences to reflect local circumstances. They can also review licences to ensure that premises are adhering to their licence conditions and other provisions of the Act, including the three licensing objectives. In addition, betting shops require relevant planning permission from their local authority.

Big Lottery Fund: Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Big Lottery Fund has spent on recruitment agency services in each year since its inception; and which companies provided these services. [242396]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund has advised that the following table sets out their expenditure on the services of recruitment agencies. It does not include the costs of advertising on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund or the costs of temporary staff provided by agencies.

Financial year	*Description*	*£*
2004-05	—	25,514.84
2005-06	Includes jobs relocated from London to Newcastle as part of restructuring and new committee recruitment for initial merger of Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund	205,789.54
2006-07	Includes jobs relocated from London to Birmingham, as part of restructuring	319,415.07
2007-08	Includes chief executive recruitment as well as final phase of large recruitment campaign in Birmingham and new committee recruitment following legal merger, including country committees	366,538.85

All costs are UK-wide and for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales recruitment reflecting the Big Lottery Fund's devolved funding arrangements. Figures are shown for the four financial years following inception on 1 June 2004.

The Big Lottery Fund has used the services of the following recruitment agencies over this four-year period—Badenoch and Clark, Barbara Wren and Associates Ltd., Broadcasting Support Services, Brook Street (UK) Ltd., Bruce Murray Resources Ltd., Capita Business Services, Charity Action Recruitment, Charity People, Concilium Finance Ltd., Contract Connections Ltd., Covent Garden Bureau, Crystal UK Ltd., Eden Brown, Recruitment Ltd., Edward Selden, Evolution Recruitment Solution, Forrest Recruitment Ltd., Gray and Associates, Harvey Nash, Hay Group Management Ltd., Hays, Hr Staffsearch, Hudson Global Resources Ltd., Huntress Search Ltd., International Resources Group, Katie Bard, Kelly Services, Key Personnel, Law Absolute, Ludisa Recruitment Ltd., Lynda Jacobs Recruitment, Media Contracts, Media Recruitment London, Mediacontacts Recruitment, Michael Page International, Morgan Hunt Public Sector Ltd., Nicholas Andrews and Temps Fin, Nigel Lynn Associates, Now Recruitment Ltd., Office Angels Ltd., Opus Personnel Ltd., Permits2work Ltd., Pertemps Investments Ltd., Peter Lockyer Advertising, Positive Action in Housing, Positive Recruitment Solutions, Prospectus Ltd., PSD Group, Purcon Ltd., RBS Commercial-Coby, Reed Agency Services Ltd., Resolve, Robert Walters, Roc Recruitment Ltd., Royal Bank Invoice Finance and Saxton Bampfylde Hever plc., Search Total Recruitment, Select, Spring Personnel Ltd., Spring Technology Staffing, Stopgap Group, The Synergy Group, VMA Group Search and Selection and Zarak Group Ltd.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246673]

Andy Burnham: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245320]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has adopted the OGC guidelines as set out in the Procurement Policy Note, Information note 13/08—26 November 2008. All suppliers have been informed of the changes. We have not separately asked for confirmation of compliance.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245341]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has no such contracts.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245358]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department is currently replacing its senior information risk owner following the departure of the previous incumbent who was Director-General level and who took over the role following the publication of the Data Handling report.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245383]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 January 2009]:* All my Department's IT systems are fully and independently accredited.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department holds information on its Workforce database for all seven equality strands: gender, gender id, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation and religion and belief. As part of the Cross Government 10-point plan for gender, ethnicity and disability, all departments were set targets at Senior Civil Service level. As a Department we also track data across all other grades to check progress. At SCS level we met all of our targets for 2008. For the tracking grades, we made good progress on gender and ethnicity but fell short of our targets for disability. As part of the new Cross Government Strategy, Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity we have again set challenging targets for the next three years which we will review regularly.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244342]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department spent the following amounts on furniture in each year since 2005. The Department does not have information prior to 2005.

£

	2005	2006	2007	2008
British Firms	0	122,200	115,683	7,882
Remploy	0	0	0	0
Overseas Firms	9,035	236,389	216,243	47,733

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 726-27W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* expected completion date and *(b)* estimated cost of each of the projects was at their outset. [242179]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport IT Programme that provides electronic document and record management, electronic content management and secure collaboration was originally expected to be completed by 31 March 2009 and was estimated to cost £1.5 million. The most recent estimate and completion date of each project in tranche 1 of the Royal Parks Agency ICT Change Programme is as follows:

Project name	Projected final cost (£)	Completion date	Expected completion date at outset (ICT Programme Blueprint V2.0, January 2008)	Estimated cost at outset (Programme Definition, Option 4) (£)	Additional risk allowance
Quick Wins	11,903	Completed September 2008	End August 2008	42,300	+/- 10%
Estates Licensing Upgrade	9,129	Completed August 2008	End December 2008	16,250	-50% to +100%

Project name	*Projected final cost (£)*	*Completion date*	*Expected completion date at outset (ICT Programme Blueprint V2.0, January 2008)*	*Estimated cost at outset (Programme Definition, Option 4) (£)*	*Additional risk allowance*
Business Systems Governance	19,398	Completed July 2008	End December 2008	Included as part of overall programme management allowance of £361,438	0
Training/Change Management	142,492	Completion March 2009	End December 2008	As above	+/- 10%
Upgrade Sports Booking system	23,766	Full upgrade deferred in July 2008, remainder now in tranche 2	End December 2008	30,000	+/- 50%
ICT Service improvement	87,785	Completion October 2008	End December 2008	126,059	+/- 20%
Desktop/laptop replacement	323,793	Completed September 2008	End December 2008	129,250	+/- 20%
Remote Working	137,837	Completion April 2009	End December 2008	72,800	-10% to +20%
LAN infrastructure upgrade	86,191	Completed September 2008	End December 2008	117,850	-20% to +25%
Server infrastructure upgrade	268,022	Completed September 2008	End December 2008	Incl. with above	—
Intranet/Collaboration tool	1,314	Deferred in July 2008, now in tranche 2	End December 2008	62,600	+/- 10%
Telephony	53,358	Completion April 2009	End December 2008	34,650	+/- 15%
Refresh Trim EDRMS	213,992	Completed September 2008	End December 2008	255,000	-25% to +10%
Mobile Working	11,799	Deferred in July 2008, now in tranche 2	Not in scope at that time	Not in scope at that time	Not in scope at that time

Note:
The 'Projected final cost' shown for the intranet/collaboration and mobile working projects is the projected final cost of project spend within tranche 1 of the ICT programme. The full cost will be re-estimated as part of the tranche 2 works in 2009-10.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246647]

Andy Burnham: No complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in this period (1997 to 2008).

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240475]

Barbara Follett: The Department records information on its expenditure on hospitality, including the associated staff costs, in such a way as it states the costs of official functions, internal working lunches and other hospitality separately.

The Department's accounting system does not record information on alcohol separately, and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on gifts and hospitality, based on the principles of "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246988]

Andy Burnham: Neither the Department nor The Royal Parks use 0845 numbers.

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups, *(d)* who were female and *(e)* from the total population, (i) did and (ii) did not regularly engage in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity level sport on at least three days a week in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of his Department's progress towards its Public Service Agreement targets in this area. [244956]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Tables 1 to 4 show the number and percentage of adults who engaged in moderate intensity level sport for at least 30 minutes on at least three separate occasions during the past week. The data relate to the four sub-groups of the population referred to in the question, by region, for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total population in Table 5. The percentage of adults who did not participate can be deduced from the data given.

Due to small sample sizes, differences between regions or years may not be statistically significant.

Table 1: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	Black and minority ethnic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West	16	48	18	57	24	83
Yorkshire and The Humber	22	62	18	42	25	57
East Midlands	24	58	19	48	23	54
West Midlands	21	104	26	130	22	99
East of England	25	56	14	28	26	70
London	17	292	18	343	19	368
South East	18	75	24	83	19	74
South West	16	14	27	21	25	27
England	19	724	20	759	21	841

[1] The survey's sample of black and minority ethnic people in the North East is too small to provide robust data.

Table 2: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by adults with a limiting disability

	Limiting disability					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	10	51	9	46	9	43
North West	7	95	8	114	10	132
Yorkshire and The Humber	10	86	11	99	8	77
East Midlands	10	76	9	74	11	94
West Midlands	8	80	9	83	9	85
East of England	11	97	10	88	11	100
London	9	87	8	77	7	56
South East	12	139	9	100	12	148
South West	9	79	12	104	9	72
England	10	791	9	784	10	808

Table 3: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by adults from lower socio-economic groups

	Lower socio-economic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	15	135	16	154	17	174
North West	14	328	15	347	18	433
Yorkshire and The Humber	16	283	16	293	17	309
East Midlands	15	217	15	221	17	256
West Midlands	14	250	14	259	15	286
East of England	18	280	17	273	14	228
London	14	239	14	271	16	306
South East	15	310	16	330	17	382
South West	17	267	16	264	18	285
England	15	2,309	15	2,412	16	2,657

Table 4: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	17	169	17	181	17	182
North West	17	455	17	471	18	531
Yorkshire and The Humber	19	379	17	361	16	344
East Midlands	17	279	18	295	18	345
West Midlands	17	342	16	350	18	414
East of England	20	434	21	450	19	420
London	19	547	17	491	18	541
South East	20	628	21	661	20	662

Table 4: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
South West	20	407	20	417	22	464
England	18	3,639	18	3,678	19	3,902

Table 5: Engagement in moderate intensity sport by all adults

	All adults					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	21	400	23	449	21	434
North West	19	970	20	1,072	24	1,300
Yorkshire and The Humber	21	810	22	883	22	909
East Midlands	20	650	21	720	22	781
West Midlands	20	800	20	833	21	880
East of England	22	930	23	968	22	1,009
London	21	1,200	20	1,152	22	1,325
South East	21	1,320	22	1,396	23	1,493
South West	23	880	24	956	25	1,030
England	21	7,950	22	8,429	22	9,162

A final assessment of progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target was published on 11 December 2008. Full details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups, *(d)* who were female and *(e)* from the total population, (i) did and (ii) did not participate in at least one active sport every four weeks in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of his Department's progress towards its Public Service Agreement targets in this area. [244957]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Tables 1 to 4 show the number and percentage of adults who engaged in an active sport at least once in the past four weeks. The data relate to the four sub-groups of the population referred to in the question, by region, for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total population in Table 5. The percentage of adults who did not participate can be deduced from the data given.

Due to small sample sizes, differences between regions or years may not be statistically significant.

Table 1: Engagement in active sport by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	Black and minority ethnic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West	44	135	51	166	52	175
Yorkshire and The Humber	51	143	52	118	51	121
East Midlands	63	156	57	144	53	130
West Midlands	53	275	52	265	58	268
East of England	60	138	59	115	65	176
London	51	907	48	943	49	957
South East	60	260	62	217	56	230
South West	52	47	65	55	56	60
England	53	2,086	52	2,044	53	2,150

[1] The survey's sample of black and minority ethnic people in the North East is too small to provide robust data.

Table 2: Engagement in active sport by adults with a limiting disability

	Limiting disability					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	30	154	30	149	29	144
North West	28	379	24	327	27	337
Yorkshire and The Humber	29	264	33	308	30	283
East Midlands	35	276	35	285	33	283

Table 2: Engagement in active sport by adults with a limiting disability

	Limiting disability					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
West Midlands	31	303	30	290	28	255
East of England	34	304	34	304	35	330
London	33	320	29	274	27	223
South East	36	445	33	395	34	434
South West	34	319	36	313	27	233
England	32	2,764	31	2,646	30	2,523

Table 3: Engagement in active sport by adults from lower socio-economic groups

	Lower socio-economic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	43	408	46	443	42	448
North West	40	948	38	902	41	990
Yorkshire and The Humber	40	734	41	767	43	792
East Midlands	46	700	44	654	47	734
West Midlands	40	727	41	782	45	884
East of England	48	778	46	781	42	711
London	41	735	38	731	39	748
South East	47	1,033	46	945	49	1,107
South West	47	774	43	719	46	740
England	43	6,839	42	6,723	44	7,153

Table 4: Engagement in active sport by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	43	448	45	483	43	472
North West	44	1,229	42	1,170	44	1,284
Yorkshire and The Humber	44	934	45	959	42	901
East Midlands	47	798	46	789	49	939
West Midlands	45	941	43	955	44	1,006
East of England	51	1,164	48	1,064	50	1,155
London	52	1,536	46	1,374	42	1,300
South East	51	1,709	52	1,711	51	1,753
South West	48	1,038	46	977	47	1,011
England	48	9,795	46	9,481	46	9,820

Table 5: Engagement in active sport by all adults

	All adults					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	52	1,030	54	1,093	50	1,061
North West	50	2,640	49	2,606	52	2,909
Yorkshire and The Humber	50	2,000	53	2,131	51	2,151
East Midlands	55	1,880	56	1,918	55	1,985
West Midlands	51	2,130	50	2,099	51	2,228
East of England	57	2,500	55	2,434	56	2,575
London	55	3,220	52	3,061	51	3,106
South East	58	3,760	58	3,758	58	3,893
South West	54	2,180	54	2,209	54	2,283
England	54	21,330	53	21,309	54	22,191

A final assessment of progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target was published on 11 December 2008. Full details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups, *(d)* who were female and *(e)* from the total population, (i) did and (ii) did not (A) participate in two arts activities and (B) attend two arts events in each 12 months in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of his Department's

progress towards its public service agreement targets in this area. [244958]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 18 December 2008]*: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Tables 1 to 4, as follows, show the number and percentage of adults who attended two or more arts events in the past 12 months. The data relate to the four sub-groups of the population referred to in the question, by region, for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total population in Table 5.

Tables 6 to 10 provide similar data for adults who participated in two or more arts activities in the past 12 months. The percentage of adults who did not engage in the arts can be deduced from the data given.

Due to small sample sizes, differences between regions or years may not be statistically significant.

Table 1: Attendance at arts events by adults from Black and minority ethnic groups

	Black and minority ethnic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
North West	16	48	26	84	25	85
Yorkshire and The Humber	18	51	19	42	22	51
East Midlands	35	87	27	67	23	57
West Midlands	15	81	20	104	25	113
East of England	23	52	28	54	36	97
London	24	425	21	418	26	517
South East	32	141	28	98	35	144
South West	28	26	24	20	33	35
England	24	921	23	898	27	1,112

[1] Note that the survey's sample of Black and minority ethnic people in the North East is too small to provide robust data

Table 2: Attendance at arts events by adults with a limiting disability

	Limiting disability					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	20	100	15	76	17	85
North West	20	271	19	266	23	288
Yorkshire and The Humber	19	177	22	206	19	178
East Midlands	24	191	21	170	27	229
West Midlands	22	214	20	198	23	210
East of England	24	214	28	247	25	235
London	26	251	24	227	24	203
South East	29	363	34	405	35	443
South West	30	279	30	256	28	237
England	24	2,059	24	2,051	25	2,108

Table 3: Attendance at arts events by adults from lower socio-economic groups

	Lower socio-economic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	15	140	12	121	12	129
North West	15	345	14	344	17	405
Yorkshire and The Humber	13	233	12	225	15	285
East Midlands	17	253	16	237	19	295
West Midlands	15	268	16	308	16	308
East of England	19	315	21	348	18	309
London	18	320	16	319	17	321
South East	22	486	23	472	25	579
South West	23	385	24	390	22	352
England	17	2,745	17	2,765	18	2,983

Table 4: Attendance at arts events by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	29	305	30	323	27	304
North West	31	859	31	885	33	981
Yorkshire and The Humber	31	642	29	617	33	698
East Midlands	32	545	32	542	36	682

Table 4: Attendance at arts events by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
West Midlands	30	630	31	681	34	774
East of England	40	909	39	869	42	964
London	42	1,247	33	1,034	38	1,152
South East	42	1,418	42	1,385	45=	1,525
South West	39	837	36	766	39	838
England	36	7,502	33	7,102	37	7,919

Table 5: Attendance at arts events by all adults

	All adults					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	27	541	26	535	25	522
North West	28	1,494	29	1,561	31	1,714
Yorkshire and The Humber	28	1,098	27	1,106	30	1,262
East Midlands	32	1,074	30	1,037	33	1,182
West Midlands	29	1,286	29	1,217	30	1,314
East of England	36	1,587	36	1,586	36	1,641
London	40	2,334	34	2,016	38	2,276
South East	39	2,548	42	2,693	42	2,804
South West	37	1,482	33	1,412	36	1,516
England	34	13,363	33	13,166	34	14,230

Table 6: Participation in arts activities by adults from Black and minority ethnic groups

	Black and minority ethnic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
North West	18	53	21	69	22	73
Yorkshire and The Humber	14	39	20	47	19	46
East Midlands	21	52	22	55	19	47
West Midlands	18	92	19	98	19	88
East of England	20	45	25	69	24	64
London	22	385	19	366	19	376
South East	26	113	21	72	26	108
South West	28	25	32	27	21	22
England	21	816	20	790	20	830

[1] Note that the survey's sample of Black and minority ethnic people in the North East is too small to provide robust data.

Table 7: Participation in arts activities by adults with a limiting disability

	Limiting disability					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	15	76	14	71	12	61
North West	16	218	16	216	16	196
Yorkshire and The Humber	17	183	18	171	15	139
East Midlands	22	176	20	159	23	200
West Midlands	17	168	18	179	19	172
East of England	19	164	23	201	19	183
London	17	162	20	184	13	131
South East	22	280	26	308	24	304
South West	24	225	22	188	21	179
England	19	1,621	20	1,677	19	1,566

Table 8: Participation in arts activities by adults from lower socio- economic groups

	Lower socio-economic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	13	124	10	95	10	104
North West	12	281	12	289	12	292
Yorkshire and The Humber	14	238	12	215	12	238

Table 8: Participation in arts activities by adults from lower socio- economic groups

	Lower socio-economic					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
East Midlands	16	240	15	223	16	256
West Midlands	14	251	13	232	11	219
East of England	17	276	17	291	18	297
London	14	262	13	255	14	267
South East	18	402	19	383	19	413
South West	19	329	17	281	18	293
England	15	2,413	14	2,204	15	2,370

Table 9: Participation in arts activities by women

	Women					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	20	297	20	214	19	212
North West	21	587	20	562	19	536
Yorkshire and The Humber	24	510	21	449	23	486
East Midlands	26	442	25	428	27	505
West Midlands	21	458	22	478	23	519
East of England	29	655	29	653	28	650
London	26	770	24	721	22	674
South East	30	1,008	28	935	32	1,078
South West	31	673	27	568	29	619
England	26	5,290	24	4,989	25	5,318

Table 10: Participation in arts activities by all adults

	All adults					
	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	20	392	18	376	17	352
North West	20	1,069	19	1,021	19	1,074
Yorkshire and The Humber	22	854	20	814	20	832
East Midlands	24	815	24	825	24	872
West Midlands	21	865	21	881	20	893
East of England	26	1,125	26	1,123	26	1,175
London	26	1,548	23	1,327	21	1,297
South East	27	1,775	26	1,699	27	1,855
South West	28	1,128	26	1,050	26	1,084
England	24	9,571	23	9,117	23	9,376

A final assessment of progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target was published on 11 December 2008. Full details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups, *(d)* who were female and *(e)* from the total population, (i) did and (ii) did not access at least one museum or gallery in each 12 months in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of his Department's progress towards its Public Service Agreement targets in this area. [244959]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The "Taking Part" survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Tables 1 to 4, as follows, show the number and percentage of adults who visited at least one museum or gallery in the past 12 months. The data relate to the four sub-groups of the population referred to in the question, by region, for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total population in Table 5. The percentage of adults who did not attend can be deduced from the data given.

Due to small sample sizes, differences between regions or years may not be statistically significant.

Table 1: Attendance at museums and galleries by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	–	–	–	–	–	–

Table 1: Attendance at museums and galleries by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North West	36	150	35	152	37	156
Yorkshire and the Humber	30	83	32	92	30	92
East Midlands	30	96	28	91	33	89
West Midlands	34	125	37	139	37	144
East of England	36	83	35	89	43	116
London	58	664	55	656	60	709
South East	39	107	36	127	40	164
South West	44	90	32	77	45	98
England	35	1,387	34	1,321	39	1,665

Note:
The survey's sample of black and minority ethnic people in the north east is too small to provide robust data.

Table 2: Attendance at museums and galleries by adults with a limiting disability

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	34	[illegible]	3	159	35	176
North West	31	434	31	432	36	454
Yorkshire and The Humber	30	276	32	297	36	329
East Midlands	32	252	31	245	33	282
West Midlands	28	277	27	259	32	287
East of England	34	304	30	269	27	254
London	34	334	32	301	37	364
South East	34	423	34	389	36	456
South West	32	302	32	273	27	236
England	32	2,766	31	2,635	33	2,779

Table 3: Attendance at museums and galleries by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	42	394	41	388	42	398
North West	41	1,156	39	1,091	42	1,200
Yorkshire and the Humber	40	934	38	885	41	959
East Midlands	40	684	39	687	42	742
West Midlands	39	736	39	747	40	829
East of England	44	985	41	916	44	1,002
London	51	1,479	46	1,359	50	1,545
South East	43	1,459	43	1,405	46	1,579
South West	38	838	40	844	41	885
England	42	8,655	40	8,256	44	9,364

Table 4: Attendance at museums and galleries by women

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	42	442	45	485	41	435
North West	41	1,356	39	1,691	42	1,769
Yorkshire and the Humber	40	934	38	805	41	929
East Midlands	40	684	39	597	42	792
West Midlands	39	736	39	747	40	929
East of England	44	985	41	916	44	1,002
London	51	1,479	46	1,359	50	1,545
South East	43	1,459	43	1,405	46	1,579
South West	38	838	40	844	41	885
England	42	8,655	40	8,256	44	9,364

Table 5: Attendance at museums and galleries by all adults

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	42	937	44	994	41	967
North West	40	2,150	40	2,129	44	2,436
Yorkshire and the Humber	39	1,540	39	1,503	42	1,748
East Midlands	41	1,303	38	1,287	40	1,435
West Midlands	35	1,460	37	1,526	39	1,706
East of England	44	1,935	43	1,878	42	1,995

Table 5: Attendance at museums and galleries by all adults

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
London	51	2,983	47	2,751	52	3,130
South East	44	2,854	45	2,904	46	3,097
South West	40	1,614	39	1,607	40	1,719
England	42	16,775	42	16,547	44	18,042

A final assessment of progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target was published on 11 December 2008. Full details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5663.aspx

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of people aged 16 years and over *(a)* from black and ethnic minority groups, *(b)* with a limiting disability, *(c)* from lower socio-economic groups, *(d)* who were female and *(e)* from the total population, (i) did and (ii) did not visit at least one designated historic environment site in each of the last three years, broken down by region; and what assessment he has made of his Department's progress towards its Public Service Agreement targets in this area. [244960]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The "Taking Part" survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

Tables 1 to 4, as follows, show the number and percentage of adults who attended at least one designated historic environment site during the past 12 months. The data relate to the four sub-groups of the population referred to in the question, by region, for each of the last three years. Data are also provided for the total population in Table 5. The percentage of adults who did not attend can be deduced from the data given.

Due to small sample sizes, differences between regions or years may not be statistically significant.

Table 1: Attendance at historic environment sites by adults from black and minority ethnic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	50	20	79	25	65	33
North West	47	143	55	176	53	179
Yorkshire and the Humber	47	132	51	117	58	138
East Midlands	55	137	47	119	53	130
West Midlands	40	211	44	225	49	225
East of England	63	145	55	108	66	180
London	48	847	43	842	50	985
South East	66	285	67	236	64	261
South West	70	64	61	51	71	76
England	51	1,982	48	1,899	54	2,207

Note:
The survey's sample of black and minority ethnic people in the north east is too small to provide robust data.

Table 2: Attendance at historic environment sites by adults with a limiting disability

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	60	306	61	302	60	305
North West	56	748	57	789	61	768
Yorkshire and the Humber	55	498	62	576	62	578
East Midlands	64	502	65	523	66	565
West Midlands	54	534	56	550	55	502
East of England	62	547	64	570	63	594
London	52	502	49	461	49	413
South East	68	842	67	798	68	861
South West	65	610	62	540	61	523
England	59	5,089	60	5,109	61	5,110

Table 3: Attendance at historic environment sites by adults from lower socio-economic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
North East	58	553	59	566	59	623
North West	55	1,285	56	1,327	59	1,407
Yorkshire and the Humber	56	1,027	59	1,092	62	1,151
East Midlands	62	939	61	911	63	992
West Midlands	52	960	57	1,082	53	1,039
East of England	61	981	63	1,058	63	1,063

Table 3: Attendance at historic environment sites by adults from lower socio-economic groups

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
London	46	829	41	806	46	883
South East	64	1,417	62	1,284	68	1,546
South West	61	1,008	61	1,009	62	990
England	57	8,998	57	9,135	59	9,694

Table 4: Attendance at historic environment sites by women

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	69	722	72	773	68	759
North West	69	1,937	65	1,838	68	2,003
Yorkshire and the Humber	68	1,436	71	1,510	74	1,569
East Midlands	72	1,236	69	1,177	73	1,392
West Midlands	65	1,375	65	1,439	64	1,467
East of England	72	1,631	72	1,602	73	1,687
London	62	1,836	57	1,705	61	1,863
South East	76	2,551	74	2,442	78	2,663
South West	73	1,579	71	1,489	73	1,584
England	70	14,304	68	13,973	70	14,987

Table 5: Attendance at historic environment sites by all adults

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand	Percentage	Thousand
North East	69	1,377	71	1,437	69	1,456
North West	68	3,604	67	3,579	70	3,901
Yorkshire and the Humber	68	2,711	72	2,902	73	3,084
East Midlands	72	2,438	71	2,451	75	2,674
West Midlands	66	2,757	67	2,806	65	2,842
East of England	73	3,187	72	3,179	72	3,318
London	64	3,730	59	3,461	63	3,828
South East	76	4,963	75	4,867	78	5,239
South West	73	2,966	72	2,932	74	3,137
England	70	27,731	69	27,613	71	29,479

A final assessment of progress against the Department's SR04 PSA3 target was published on 11 December 2008. Full details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Football: World Cup

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons the 2018 World Cup bid team has had no contact with Opposition parties. [246868]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Further to my answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report* column 766W, England 2018 Ltd. is in the process of recruiting a director of government liaison, whose key responsibilities include one to, "Ensure all relevant Party Leaders ... are regularly briefed on the progress of the Bid."

Horserace Totalisator Board: EC Action

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what grounds his Department's plans to sell the Tote met objection from the EU; what response he has made to such objections; and if he will make a statement. [244678]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 1 June 2005 the European Commission initiated a formal investigation under the state aid provisions of the Treaty of Rome into the then proposed terms of the sale of the Tote, which involved a sale at less than the market price. The Government's view was that the investigation was likely to conclude that such a sale would constitute unlawful state aid, and accordingly notified the Commission on 3 May 2006 that it did not intend to proceed with a sale on those terms and was looking at alternative models.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246349]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no former prisoners employed in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. A criminal record is not an automatic bar disqualifying an individual from appointment.

Olympic Games 2012

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the follow-up reports from the *(a)* Athens and *(b)* Sydney Olympics; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that the 2012 London Olympics has no detrimental effect on sporting participation in the UK. [246952]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS officials have looked closely at what happened in previous Olympic and Paralympic games to support preparation for London 2012, which will be the first Olympic and Paralympic games to feature a planned national legacy.

The Olympics represents a once in a generation opportunity to drive up activity and performance in all levels of sport. This is reflected in the creation of Sport England's new strategy, with the Olympics providing a focal point for the development of a world-leading community sport system. The strategy will deliver one million more people playing sport in contribution to the Legacy Action Plan's commitment to getting two million people more active by 2012.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245712]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS printed materials and forms are available in alternative formats upon request, to meet specific requirements of people with disabilities.

Standish Hospital

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the outcome was of the application to list Block C of the Standish Hospital site; on what basis the decision was taken; for what reasons the hon. Member for Stroud was not informed of the decision; and if he will make a statement. [244332]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* After careful consideration of all the evidence, including taking account of advice from English Heritage, and representations by others, I have decided that Block C (former Women's Ward), Standish Hospital is not of sufficient architectural or historic interest to merit listing. The decision was taken on 29 October 2008. My hon. Friend should have been informed of this decision by letter and I regret that this did not happen.

Swimming

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how his Department plans to monitor the effectiveness of the free swimming programme. [246764]

Andy Burnham: My Department will monitor and evaluate the Free Swimming Programme to determine future funding and delivery arrangements. As part of this, we will require regular data returns from local authorities. Further details on these requests will be sent to local authorities in due course.

Swimming Advisory Group

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) who the members of the Swimming Advisory Group are; what work they have undertaken to date; and if he will make a statement; [245727]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all children under 14 are educated about water safety. [245728]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Swimming Advisory Group has ceased to exist since early 2002, when it submitted its final report on swimming to the then Department for Education and Skills, which was considered by Ministers in April of that year. Its membership was made up of the Department for Education and Skills (DfES); the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS); the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted); the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA); the Youth Sport Trust (YST); Sport England; the Amateur Swimming Association (asa); the Institute for Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM); the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA); the Royal Life-Saving Society (RLSS); the Physical Education Association of the United Kingdom (PEAUK); and the British Association of Advisers and Lecturers in Physical Education (BAALPE).

Swimming activities and water safety are a compulsory part of the physical education curriculum for all primary pupils.

Swimming: Elderly

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations his Department consulted on the initiative to give free access to swimming for over 60s in the 12 months prior to announcing this programme. [245725]

Andy Burnham: My Department designed the Free Swimming Programme in close consultation with a range of stakeholders including the Local Government Association, the Chief Cultural and Leisure Officers' Association, the Amateur Swimming Association and Sport England.

Television and Film

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support the Government plans to provide to ensure that British production of television drama and film will not be disadvantaged in the current economic climate. [245806]

Barbara Follett: The Government continue to support British film through the funding schemes provided by the UK Film Council and the Regional Screen agencies, as well as the Film Tax Relief. For example, the UK Film Council's Premiere Fund is £8 million a year and on average the Fund invests in eight to nine films per annum. Also, the Skills Investment Fund raises close to £1 million per annum and is used, alongside Film Council lottery funding, by Skillset to provide film skills training.

The six-year funding settlement for the BBC announced in January 2007 provides for an annual increase in the TV licence fee which is either above or in line with the Treasury's inflation forecast at that time for each year of the settlement (with the exception of the increase in year six, which will depend on a further review nearer the time). Within the framework of the Charter and Agreement, it is for the BBC to decide the allocation of the funding to drama and film.

Investment in content is a core workstream of the Digital Britain project, with the aim of maintaining and enhancing the funding of high quality, professional UK audiovisual and interactive content.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the campaign to boycott the BBC licence fee on BBC revenues. [245200]

Andy Burnham: No assessment has been made. Under the Communications Act, however, it is a criminal offence for a person who uses or installs a television receiver not to have a television licence.

Theatre: Finance

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding Arts Council England has distributed for use on theatre projects in each year since its inception. [245909]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England has advised that since its establishment in 1994 the following National Lottery funding has been distributed for use on theatre projects:

National lottery funding to theatre projects

	£
1994-95	98,000
1995-96	90,222,423
1996-97	131,998,040
1997-98	66,579,498
1998-99	9,103,336
1999-00	53,628,834
2000-01	24,331,041
2001-02	39,273,730
2002-03	21,756,267
2003-04	78,253,906
2004-05	47,823,833
2005-06	16,082,474
2006-07	16,637,447
2007-08	10,023,637

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue funding there was for theatre in England in each year since 1980. [246418]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been received from Arts Council England and is set out in the table. Prior to 2002-03, the Regional Arts Boards were independent bodies and maintained records according to their own systems and requirements. Consequently, compatible figures for the regularly funded organisations portfolio are not available for earlier years.

Arts Council England grant in aid to regularly funded theatre organisations

	£000
2002-03	71,669
2003-04	85,501
2004-05	90,692
2005-06	95,032
2006-07	98,098
2007-08	100,575
2008-09	102,864

Tourism

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which holiday destinations in England were most frequently visited by domestic tourists in each of the last 10 years, calculated according to the number of visitors per 10,000 of local population. [244862]

Barbara Follett: The way in which VisitBritain captured tourist statistics changed in 2005 and as such comparable information on the most frequently visited holiday destinations is only available for 2006 and 2007.

Destination	*Holiday visits*	*Population*	*Visits per 10,000 population*	*Rank*
2006				
Scarborough	1,295,000	106,233	118,137	1
Blackpool	1,502,000	142,284	105,564	2
Skegness	933,000	130,455	71,519	3
Isle of Wight	908,000	132,719	68,415	4
York	846,000	181,131	46,707	5
Bournemouth	732,000	163,441	44,787	6
Manchester	1,331,000	392,819	33,883	7
Bristol	930,000	380,615	24,434	8
Birmingham	994,000	977,091	10,173	9
London	5,498,000	7,172,036	7,666	10
2007				
Newquay	597,000	19,562	305,184	1
Scarborough	1,365,000	106,233	128,491	2
Blackpool	1,605,000	142,284	112,803	3
Great Yarmouth	674,000	90,813	74,218	4
Isle of Wight	920,000	132,719	69,319	5
Skegness	743,000	130,455	56,955	6
Torquay	695,000	129,702	53,584	7
Bournemouth	773,000	163,441	47,295	8
York	767,000	181,131	42,345	9
Norwich	494,000	121,553	40,641	10

Whole Sports Plans

Barry Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport within the Sports Governing Body Whole Sports Plans, by what standard means the baselines of participants have been determined. [246763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The baselines for the NGB Whole Sport Plans are provided by Active People Survey 2. This surveyed 191,000 adults (over the age of 16) across England between mid October 2007 and mid October 2008. The Active People Survey is carried out continuously through the year and uses computer assisted telephone interviews to survey a random sample of adults across every local authority in England. A 'participant' is defined as someone who takes part in the sport on at least one occasion a week for at least 30 minutes, and to at least a moderate intensity.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 12 January 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Eritrea

Mr. Moore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the approved export licences to Eritrea in 2007; how many applications for licences to export to Eritrea were refused during *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; in respect of what types of goods and services such applications were refused; and what the grounds were for refusal. [243936]

Ian Pearson: The Government publish detailed information on export licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including a summary of the items covered by these licences, and where appropriate the criterion against which the licence has been refused, in their Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and Quarterly Reports, published since 2004, are available from the House of Commons Library and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1.

The most recent annual report published covers 2007 and the latest quarterly report covers the first quarter of 2008.

Arms Trade: Statistics

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what basis defence export statistics will be compiled in the future. [243257]

Ian Pearson: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation will continue to produce estimates of UK defence export orders based on information provided in confidence by UK defence and security companies. Aggregated information will appear in UK Defence Statistics which is published annually by the Ministry of Defence. The information will relate to the value of new orders recorded by defence and security companies in a particular calendar year.

Billing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to encourage the Government's prime contractors to pay sub-contractors within 10 days. [245248]

Mr. McFadden: BERR are in discussion with our leading suppliers to encourage them to pass on our 10-day payment terms and will be working with them to reduce payment times along the entire supply chain. We are also encouraging other Government Departments to take similar action. In addition, we have asked all of our delivery partners to ensure payments to suppliers are made within 10 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice and to also encourage their suppliers to pass on these payment terms.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the performance of public bodies in making payments to suppliers within 10 days of receiving an invoice; and if he will make a statement. [244582]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* BERR is currently collecting data from other Government Departments and from its own delivery partners on performance in making payments to suppliers within 10 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice. Although complete figures are not yet available, Government Departments and public bodies have embraced payment within 10 days and are working to implement this across their own organisation and to encourage suppliers to pass on these terms.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many organisations his Department has contacted to ask that suppliers be paid within 10 days of an invoice being received in the last three months. [244595]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* BERR has asked all of its delivery partners to ensure payments to suppliers are made within 10 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice. We have also published prompt payment guidance for public sector organisations on BERR's website. In addition, we are encouraging our leading suppliers to pass on our 10 day payment terms and will be working with them to reduce payment times along the entire supply chain.

Business for New Europe

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from Business for New Europe in connection with the proposals for a third runway at Heathrow. [243107]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend, the Secretary of State, has received no representations from Business for New Europe in connection with proposals on a third runway at Heathrow.

Business: Complaints

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the average cost to business of compliance with investigations into super complaints. [242595]

Mr. Thomas: No estimate has been made by the Department since the regime came into force. However, the overarching regulatory impact assessment prepared for the Enterprise Act 2002 estimated that all consumer measures introduced by the Act would impose no significant costs to business.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what consumer benefit studies have been conducted into the use of super complaints. [242034]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* None have been conducted by this Department.

Business: Ethics

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government has taken to ensure that private companies are socially responsible in their actions. [245865]

Ian Pearson: The Government are a strong supporter of responsible business behaviour and promote a business-led, voluntary approach to promote corporate responsibility as mainstream business practice. There is now a statutory statement of directors' duties in the Companies Act 2006, which includes the duty to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members. The UK also promotes adherence to the OECD Guidelines for Multi-national Enterprises, which set recommendations for good corporate behaviour.

Business: Loans

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the eligibility criteria are for applications for loans from the new transition fund. [241377]

Mr. McFadden: The loans will be available to SMEs within the European Union definition; eligible companies will be able to apply for new loans for a period of up to six months from the inception of the fund. The repayment period will be three years or as agreed with the company within this time frame. In order to qualify applicants must be able to demonstrate that the absence of such funding is exposing the business to the risk of significant short-term contraction or endangering its existence. Loans from the fund will normally only be made where the existing financiers (including bankers) are, at the time of application to the fund, willing to maintain some borrowing facilities on agreed terms. Applicants, through their business plans, should be able to demonstrate a positive impact on jobs, either through job creation or job retention. The fund will be run on a fully commercial basis and will provide individual loans of up to £250,000. Loans from the fund cannot be used to pay down existing borrowings and business assets could be taken as security at the fund manager's discretion although this would not generally extend to personal guarantees or charges over individuals' private residences. If security is not taken, this fact will be reflected in assessing the "commercial" rate of interest to be applied.

The fund will cover most SMEs but there are exceptions and companies falling within the definition of a "business in financial difficulty" under the 'Community Guidelines on State Aid for Rescuing and Restructuring firms in difficulty' (2004/C 244/02 issued on 1 October 2004); retail businesses and those in commercial property investment will be ineligible.

Business: Postal Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of bulk mail deliveries undertaken by private companies in the last period for which figures are available. [245822]

Mr. McFadden: None.

All central and local Government Departments and agencies use the most appropriate and cost-effective postal operator and service to meet their general and respective specific business needs. It is the responsibility of each Government Department to ensure the best value for money when procuring goods or services, and this includes postal services which have been the subject of a report by the National Audit Office in 2006.

Cement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on the long-term supply of cement and concrete to the construction industry of domestic cement manufacturers ceasing to produce cement in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [244498]

Ian Pearson: BERR monitors both cement production and the import of both cement and clinker to the UK. These statistics are published both annually in the "Construction Statistics Annual" and through the monthly "Statistics of Building Materials and Components". Currently around 10 per cent. of UK cement is imported, and an almost similar proportion of clinker for cement production. The sector is reporting that there is currently world over-capacity for cement production. Historically, the sector has varied the level of imports to suit their market, commercial and operational decisions. We would expect this to continue.

Cement: EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on domestic cement manufacture of carbon dioxide emissions allowance auctioning proposals under Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme should *(a)* no border adjustment mechanism be introduced for non-carbon constrained countries and *(b)* no free allowances be granted; and if he will make a statement. [244497]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Government believe that sectors at risk of carbon leakage should be identified on the basis of robust evidence and we will continue to consider the available evidence. A number of studies have been carried out to

examine the impacts of the introduction of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on the competitiveness of those sectors covered by the scheme. To date the two most significant pieces of UK research are those which were carried out by Climate Strategies and Oxford Economics, both of which were published in 2007 and were funded by DEFRA and/or BERR. Each report considered the effects of the EU ETS on a number of key sectors, including cement.

The results of the modelling study undertaken by Oxford Economics suggested that the impact of the EU ETS on industrial production would be small. The results suggested that, if industry were required to purchase all of their allowances, at a carbon price of €25/tCO_2 and assuming no equivalent action by non-EU countries, then less than 0.1 per cent. of domestic production in the non-metallic minerals sector (which contains cement) would be lost to countries outside of the EU.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the carbon dioxide price at which domestic cement manufacturing may begin to reduce in the UK should no equalisation measures be placed on cement exporters outside the EU at the start of Phase III of the Emissions Trading Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [244499]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Government commissioned Oxford Economics to undertake a research project to examine the impact that the EU ETS could have on production decisions in UK industrial sectors. While the study did not identify a specific tipping point at which domestic cement production will begin to reduce, the results of the study did suggest that the impact on domestic production would be small. For example, the modelling results suggest that, if the industry were required to purchase all of their allowances, at a carbon price of €25/tCO_2 and assuming no equivalent action by non-EU countries, less than 0.1 per cent. of production in the non-metallic minerals sector, which contains cement, is likely to be lost to countries outside the EU.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will estimate the percentage of domestic cement manufacture which may move to countries outside the ambit of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) at a price per tonne of carbon dioxide of *(a)* 20 euros, *(b)* 25 euros, *(c)* 30 euros, *(d)* 35 euros and *(e)* 40 euros (i) should free allowances be granted to cement manufacturers at each percentage point between 80 and 100 per cent. of their total allowances under Phase III of the ETS and (ii) should no equalisation measures be placed on exporters outside the EU at the start of Phase III; and if he will make a statement. [244500]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The available evidence suggests that, if the non-metallic minerals sector (which includes the cement industry) is allocated 100 per cent. of their allowances for free, assuming a carbon price of €25/tCO_2 and no equivalent action by non-EU countries, less than 0.1 per cent. of domestic production would be lost to countries outside of the EU. The percentage reduction in domestic production is not available for all carbon prices. However, we would expect the impact to be larger at higher carbon prices.

The assessment of which sectors are at risk of carbon leakage as a result of the costs of complying with the EU ETS will nevertheless be decided on the basis of EU data. The allocation of free allowances will therefore be dependent on the cost increase and trade intensity data for the cement industry across all EU member states rather than just the UK.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241182]

Ian Pearson: In July 2008, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme published Adapting to climate change in England—a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government Programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a coordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Information about the Programme and its work can be found at

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation.

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act—including a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme that will then begin in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory National Adaptation Programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and report to Parliament.

In addition, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is encouraging industry sectors to consider and review their resilience arrangements and is working towards embedding adaptation into its own operations.

Company Law: Billing

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the proportion of publicly-listed companies which complied with the provisions of the Companies Act 1985 to submit their payment terms to Companies House in the latest period for which figures are available. [246766]

Ian Pearson: All public companies are required to disclose their payment terms in their accounts. It is the responsibility of the companies to ensure that their accounts meet all the requirements of the Companies Acts.

Construction: Public Appointments

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to make an announcement on the new role of the Chief Construction Officer. [243822]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* A discussion paper will be issued shortly. As announced in BERR's press notice of 2 October 2008, full details of the potential terms and scope of the role will be confirmed as part of the operational efficiency programme. The results of this work will be announced in the Budget.

Constructionline

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the functions are of Constructionline in reducing the administrative, financial and compliance burden on small and medium-sized enterprises of multiple health and safety pre-qualification schemes in the public sector; and what account it takes of work already completed by the construction industry on health and safety. [246097]

Ian Pearson: The purpose of Constructionline is specifically to reduce duplication of effort by allowing tenderers to answer the key prequalification questions once. After that, tendering organisations only need to ask the project-specific questions of tenderers. This significantly lowers the financial and administrative burdens on SMEs, which make up the vast majority of the construction industry. Constructionline's questions are drawn from HSE's requirements for contractors in respect of health and safety. Constructionline works closely with other industry organisations and Government on health and safety matters, and will be a member of the 'Safety Schemes in Procurement Competence Forum (SSIP)' when it is formally launched in April 2009.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contracts his Department awarded to *(a)* KPMG, *(b)* PricewaterhouseCoopers, *(c)* Ernst and Young, *(d)* McKinsey, *(e)* Deloitte and *(f)* other consultancy firms in each of the last 12 months; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) monetary value of each of those contracts was. [242225]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that in each of the last 12 months the providers listed received the following payments for services. Where a supplier is not listed there has been no expenditure for that month. The Department has not made any payments to McKinsey during this period.

	£
November 2007	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	262,266.05
Ernst and Young LLP	54,116.61
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	385,734.50
KPMG	12,711.82
December 2007	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	357,509.49
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	366,232.78
KPMG	12,711.82
January 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	319,903.66
Ernst and Young LLP	68,436.00
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	330,293.17
February 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	401,168.00
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	273,849.17
March 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	28,926.73
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	274,471.34
April 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	294,290.34
Ernst and Young LLP	43,815.75
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	779,168.59
KPMG	49,744.00
May 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	339,927.71
Ernst and Young LLP	72,213.14
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	425,820.23
June 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	410,926.53
Ernst and Young LLP	18,170.79
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	583,884.64
July 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	91,368.22
Ernst and Young LLP	225,952.26
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	1,485,899.41
KPMG	147,958.00
August 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	164,056.25
Ernst and Young LLP	104,804.13
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	238,590.91
KPMG	58,142.32
September 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	238,509.40
Ernst and Young LLP	70,231.40
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	1,310,801.81
KPMG	25,330.00
October 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	310,107.28
Ernst and Young LLP	84,407.89
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	1,837,929.64
KPMG	13,582.50
November 2008	
Deloitte and Touche LLP	252,133.73
Ernst and Young LLP	105,672.86
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP	191,695.83

The total payment to other consultancy firms in the last 12 months is £15,155,819.

The answer to Part (i) and (ii) can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i)

losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since its inception. [242914]

Mr. Thomas: We are unable to answer the question as to do so would breach the confidentiality of individual/s concerned.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245354]

Mr. McFadden: This Department had a Senior Information Risk Owner in place before publication of the report Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action. The current BERR Senior Information Risk Owner is a Grade 2.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244604]

Mr. McFadden: The Government's delivery plan for 'Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate', published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the delivery plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244363]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's published 'Annual Report and Accounts' contains information on its tangible fixed assets, which includes an additions category entitled 'furniture, fixtures and fittings'.

These accounts can be found on the BERR website at the following address:

www.berr.gov.uk

The following years accounts are on the website:

BERR Annual Report and Accounts 2007-2008 (HC 757)—Chapter 5—Note 14

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2006-2007 (HC 584)—Chapter 5—Note 14

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2005-2006 (HC 1461—Note 14

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2004-2005 (HC 612)—Note 13

DTI Annual Report and Accounts 2003-2004 (HC 26)—Note 14

Published accounts for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are available from the Stationery Office. All furniture purchased during this period was from British firms, apart from one German company which we no longer use. No furniture was purchased from Remploy.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on employing staff to assist special advisers in each of the last three years. [240384]

Mr. McFadden: Salary costs were £63,370 in 2006; £70,820 in 2007 and £84,300 in 2008.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on which occasions his Department and its predecessor has convened a citizens' jury or randomly-drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy-making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243041]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 October, *Official Report*, column reference 347W, to the right hon. member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May). There have been no citizens' juries since July 2007 and to check the position back to 2000 could only be done at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent consideration he has given to bringing forward publicly-funded capital works commissioned by his Department; and what discussions he has had with Treasury ministers on the financing of these projects. [244278]

Mr. McFadden: HMG assessed a number of options for bringing forward capital spending as part of a fiscal stimulus. The £3 billion package announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report was based on the principles that it should be timely (focused on those projects that could be brought forward in the time available), targeted (focused on capital spending that would support the UK economy) and temporary (bringing forward spending—protecting the fiscal position in the medium term).

Capital spending was brought forward in a range of areas, including investing in energy efficiency measures and increasing capacity in the motorway network. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has no substantial capital spending programmes following the transfer of the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). BERR is therefore not forming part of the Capital Expenditure Acceleration Programme.

BERR is already taking steps to assist business through the economic downturn through new schemes on small business finance, including a capital fund of £50 million announced in the pre-Budget report and funded from the existing Mezzanine Fund, Enterprise Capital Funds and a £10 million regional development agencies (RDA) contribution. This fund will provide capital support to overleveraged small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This is in addition to the capital expenditure schemes that the Department currently funds.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which external companies and organisations have been used by his Department to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in his Department in the last three years; and how many staff participated in such training. [246590]

Mr. McFadden: The Department uses our preferred training providers Personnel Training Services Consortium (PTSC) and National School of Government (NSG) for fast stream training. For language training, the Department uses the preferred supplier Communicaid.

52 fast streamers participated in training with PTSC and NSG between 2006 and 2008.

Based on business demand, 12 fast streamers undertook language training between 2006 and 2008.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on digital media training courses provided by the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008; how many such training sessions have been held in 2008; and how many staff members in his Department attended at least one such training course. [246593]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has no record of using the services of the Internet Advertising Bureau in 2008.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 906-07W, on departmental temporary employment, how many staff were recruited through each company in each year; and for how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year. [242104]

Mr. McFadden: With reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 906-07W, on departmental temporary employment, information on the number of staff recruited through each company in each year and how long on average staff recruited through these companies worked for the Department in each year could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget the Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has to publicise its activities; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the agency's promotional activities. [244032]

Mr. McFadden: During the 2008-09 financial year, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform is running a £1.25 million campaign to raise awareness of employment rights among vulnerable agency workers, including raising the profile of the Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectorate.

The EAS promotional activities include publication and launch of the 'Know Your Rights' leaflet last month, and we will monitor the effectiveness of our awareness raising campaign towards the end of the financial year.

Finsbury Ltd. and Roland Rudd

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates since 1 January 2007 *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had discussions with (i) Finsbury Ltd. and (ii) Roland Rudd. [243128]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The information requested is as follows.

Finsbury Ltd.

Since 1 January 2007, Ministers have not had discussions with Finsbury Ltd. No meetings with officials have been reported either.

Roland Rudd

Since 1 January 2007, discussions have been held which Roland Rudd attended on the following dates:

A Secretary of State has had discussions with Roland Rudd on:

11 September 2007—Secretary of State had an introductory meeting with BNE Members;

19 December 2007—Secretary of State attended a BNE breakfast event on Europe and to discuss 17 January 2008 Global Europe Conference;

7 January 2008—Telephone conversation to catch-up on preparations for the Global Europe Conference on 14 January 2008;

14 January 2008—The BERR/FCO 'Business Priorities for a Global Europe' Conference was organised in co-operation with BNE, with Roland Rudd chairing the event and BERR Secretary of State John Hutton was one of the speakers;

17 June 2008—Secretary of State attended a dinner with BNE members;

17 October 2008—Secretary of State met with Roland Rudd;

10 December 2008—Lord Mandelson had a breakfast meeting with Roland Rudd and several BNE company members to discuss EU economic reform issues;

17 December 2008—Lord Mandelson had a second breakfast meeting with Roland Rudd and several other BNE company members to discuss EU economic reform issues.

Ministers have had discussions with Roland Rudd on:

2 October 2008—BERR Minister of State Shriti Vadera attended a breakfast meeting with BNE (Roland Rudd attended);

7 March 2008—Dinner attended by BERR Minister of State Shriti Vadera, Roland Rudd, and other guests;

7 May 2008—BERR Minister of State Shriti Vadera spoke at BNE Enlargement Seminar;

8 December 2008—The Global Europe Business Summit was attended by BERR Minister of State Shriti Vadera and Roland Rudd was one of the business participants (representing BNE).

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received from Finsbury Ltd. in connection with the proposal for a third runway at Heathrow. [243129]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* My noble Friend, the Secretary of State, has received no representations from Finsbury Ltd. in connection with proposals on a third runway at Heathrow.

Keep your Future Afloat Campaign

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, on the Keep your Future Afloat campaign, for what reason the North West Regional Development Agency provided funding to the campaign; and what expenditure the campaign undertook as a result of the funding provided. [242039]

Mr. McFadden: NWDA funding has been used over a number of years to enable KOFAC Co-ordinating Committee to continue delivering a targeted lobbying campaign to sustain a significant number of jobs in the naval shipbuilding industrial base of north-west England. Targets of the more recent campaign have been future aircraft carriers, Astute and replacement Vanguard class submarines, MARS supply ships, civil nuclear and other diversification opportunities.

Funding goes towards project management, essential research, preparation of customised lobby material and arrangement of attendance at national conferences and other events.

Automotive Industry

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from *(a)* the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and *(b)* Ford on (i) financial support from the taxpayers and (ii) Ford's plans to move production of the Transit Van from Southampton to Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [243076]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* We have wide-ranging contact at all levels with the automotive industry and its representatives (including the SMMT). My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and I met with automotive manufacturers, suppliers and retailers on 27 November and we continue to have close dialogue. Ford confirmed in November that it will manufacture its new Eco Boost engine family, which is 20 per cent. more fuel efficient and emits 15 per cent. less carbon dioxide, for global use at its Bridgend factory. Ford's investment was secured with £13.4 million in support from taxpayers via the Welsh Assembly Government. This will increase jobs at the Bridgend factory, the third largest employer in Wales, to more than 2,000. It is intended the current Transit model will be produced at Southampton until 2011. We strongly welcome Ford's commitment to seeing production of the chassis cab variant of the next model Transit at their Southampton site in the future.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to support the car manufacturing industry in Cheshire and Merseyside. [243148]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* We are closely engaged with the automotive and other sectors in the UK, including those companies in the Cheshire and Merseyside area, acting both at a European level (for example through the European Investment Bank's €8 billion automotive support fund), and at a national and regional level. This includes the package of support for SMEs announced in the PBR and the Northwest Regional Development Agency's transitional loan fund for SMEs announced on 8 December. We have also written to all major vehicle manufacturers in the UK asking them to forward on to their suppliers a note about support available.

Overseas Market Introduction Service

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether there have been any changes in Overseas Market Introduction Service fees in the last 12 months. [241923]

Mr. Thomas: Prices for the five service levels of UK trade and Investment's Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS) were increased in April 2008. OMIS prices are advertised gross, inclusive of VAT. The prices were lowered on 1 December 2008 to take account of the Government's decision to reduce VAT to 15 per cent. from that date.

Overseas Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in which countries there are no official services delivered on behalf of UK Trade and Investment through the British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate General in that country. [240831]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment has no dedicated resource in the following countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Ascension, Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, British Virgin Islands, British Indian Ocean Territories, Burkina Fasso, Burma, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominica, East Timor, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Gibraltar, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Madagascar, Maldives, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, North Korea, Papua New

Guinea, Paraguay, Pitcairn, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, St. Helena, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Surinam, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Tristan da Cunha, Turkmenistan, Turks and Caicos Islands, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vatican, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

While UK Trade and Investment does not have specific resource in the markets listed, political support from the ambassador or high commissioner, in respect of a particular contract or to support a UK business with interests in that market, remains available. UK Trade and Investment also provide basic information on these markets via the UK Trade and Investment website.

UK Trade and Investment is represented in the following 99 markets, which account for over 98 per cent. of global GDP: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium/Luxembourg, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland/Liechtenstein, Syria, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps UK Trade and Investment takes to ensure that overseas regional trade missions are properly co-ordinated and that the funding is equitable for similar companies. [241529]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment makes funding available to its regional teams for Market Visit Support (MVS) by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

MVS enables companies to be supported individually or in groups in the form of a trade mission. Companies from one region can participate in visits organised by another region. All regions work to the same set of guidance. Where MVS funding is to support a visit to market, it is based on a specific subsidy for each overseas market.

Overseas Trade: Advisory Services

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the guidance relating to offering companies free advice without an Overseas Market Introduction Service fee was last changed; and what the content was of that change. [241532]

Mr. Thomas: Guidance on offering free advice to companies dates from April 2004, when the Overseas Market Introduction Service was introduced across UK Trade and Investment's global network. This guidance has been re-emphasised on a number of occasions since 2004. UKTI's trade officers may spend around an hour of their time exploring a company's needs and explaining what can be done for them. They may also provide a limited amount of 'off-the-shelf' information. However, the guidance is that companies should be charged for substantive help from UKTI trade officers in overseas embassies, high commissions and consulates.

Parental Leave

Susan Kramer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of new fathers have taken paternal leave in each year since 2001, broken down by local authority; and if he will make a statement. [244790]

Mr. McFadden: Information on the number and proportion of new fathers taking paternity leave in each year from 2001, broken down by local authority is not available. However, since 2002, three surveys on Maternity and Paternity Rights have been produced by my Department and the Department for Work and Pensions. These publications include a survey on the proportion of new fathers taking paternity leave, and can be found at:

1. Maternity rights and mothers' employment decisions

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep496.pdf

2. Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf

3. Maternity and Paternity Rights in Britain 2002: survey of parents

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/ih2003-2004/IH131.pdf

The Maternity and Paternity Rights and Benefits: Survey of Parents 2005 shows that 93 per cent. of fathers take time off around the time of their child's birth. Of the fathers who took time off, 79 per cent. took at least some paid statutory paternity leave. The Maternity Rights and Mother's Employment Decisions paper, which carried out a survey in 2007 shows that 91 per cent. of fathers' took some time off when the baby was born. However, this figure does not differentiate between paternity leave and other types of leave (e.g. annual leave).

Post Office: Pay

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what bonus payments were made to directors of the Post Office in each of the last five years. [245237]

Mr. McFadden: The level of directors' bonus payments is a matter for Royal Mail's remuneration committee. I have asked the company secretary of Royal Mail to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the salary and pension package of each director of the Post Office was in each of the last three years. [245241]

Mr. McFadden: The level of directors' salary and pension packages is a matter for Royal Mail's remuneration committee. I have asked the company secretary of Royal Mail to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to increase the work of post offices and to expand the financial services they offer; and whether he intends to continue the Post Office closure programme. [243890]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. continues to explore and develop opportunities to expand the range of financial and other services offered through post offices. The recently announced Savings Gateway scheme will be available through the post office network and the Government will continue to explore the scope for introducing additional work. In addition, the Select Committee for Business and Enterprise has agreed to undertake an inquiry to identify new services to help secure the long term viability of the post office network.

The Network Change programme is now drawing to a close and there are no plans for a further closure programme.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices scheduled to shut under the Network Change programme remain open; and what the date of the latest scheduled closure is. [243891]

Mr. McFadden: Around 15 per cent. of the initial Network Change proposals were changed during the pre-consultation phase and, to date, 87 closures and four outreach proposals have been withdrawn in the light of responses to the local public consultations. I understand from Post Office Ltd. that only a small number of closures have yet to take place. Most of these relate to offices which are to be replaced by an outreach service.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the economic effect of local post offices on small and medium-sized businesses in that area. [243892]

Mr. McFadden: The Government fully recognise the social and economic value of post offices to the communities they serve. Accordingly in implementing its Network Change Programme, Post Office Ltd. was required by Government to work within the framework of national minimum access criteria to ensure continuing reasonable access and to consider the impact of proposed closures and other changes in service provision on local economies.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the first meeting of the new cross-departmental Post Office group is to be held. [243893]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Committee on the Post Office Network meets as required and officials across Government continue to explore the scope for making new services available at post offices.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to increase the proportion of Post Office business from the Government. [243894]

Mr. McFadden: The Government will continue to explore the scope for increasing the range of services which can be provided by Post Office Ltd. In addition, the Business and Enterprise Committee has been asked to review and identify potential new services which could be offered through the post office network.

Postal Services

Joan Walley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of Postcomm's direction in respect of Royal Mail's request for exemption from the pre-notification requirements for changes to its local collect service; and if he will make a statement. [244401]

Mr. McFadden: After careful consideration of Royal Mail's application and following a consultation with stakeholders, Postcomm, the independent industry regulator, decided to exempt Royal Mail from the three-month notification period required by condition 7 of its licence to waive the 50p redelivery local collect charge for the course of December 2008 only.

Postcomm acknowledged that Royal Mail's compliance processes had not operated correctly in this instance and expects Royal Mail to anticipate the need for condition 7 to be adhered to in the future unless a prior exemption has been sought. Postcomm accepted that this appeared to be a genuine error on this occasion.

More information on Postcomm's direction can be found on its website at:

www.psc.gov.uk

Postcodes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will investigate the pricing structure operated by the Post Office in respect of access to its postcode address file; what rates for access are payable by *(a)* voluntary and non-profit organisations and *(b)* commercial organisations; and if he will make a statement. [244242]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* The Postcode Address File (PAF) is owned and managed by Royal Mail. As specified under the Postal Services Act 2000 and as a condition of its licence, the company is obliged to maintain the postcode address file (the PAF) and to make it available to any person who wishes to use it on terms that are reasonable. Prices for accessing the PAF are published on Royal Mail's website

www.royalmail.com.

If any PAF user or any stakeholder feels that Royal Mail is not complying with the terms of section 116 of the PSA 2000 or Condition 22 of its licence, Postcomm, the industry regulator, will consider the merits of any such complaints in the light of its statutory duties.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on making access to the Post Office's postcode address file *(a)* cheaper and *(b)* free. [244333]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* None. Postcomm, the industry regulator, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities, carried out a consultation on the management of and access to the postal address file (PAF) in 2006 and published a decision document in April 2007 which laid down new safeguards for the future management of the PAF. The consultation asked all PAF users for comments on a series of proposals designed to make sure that the database is managed and made available to other organisations wishing to use it on fair and reasonable terms. Following the consultation, Postcomm held discussions with Royal Mail, which agreed to implement all the recommendations outlined in the report. These included the setting up of an independent PAF Advisory Board to give independent advice to the Address Management Unit of Royal Mail on behalf of PAF users. More information on Postcomm's consultation and decision can be found on its website

www.psc.gov.uk.

Postcomm will consider any complaints over access to the postcode address file.

Postwatch: Expenditure

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what the cost of Postwatch was in the last 12 months; [245238]

(2) how much was spent on salaries of members of Postwatch, including bonuses, in the last 12 months. [245239]

Mr. McFadden: Details of Postwatch's expenditure and the salaries which includes bonuses, awarded to its members for the period ending 31 March 2008 can be found in its annual report. This information can also be accessed through the Postwatch archived website at:

http://collections.europarchive.org/tna/20080402233556/http://www.postwatch.co.uk/images/stories/pdfs/annual_reports/Postwatch_AR_2007-08_WEB-2.pdf

Postwatch's final annual report and accounts to cover the remaining six-month period of its operation prior to its merger with Consumer Focus, is due to be published in January 2009. My officials will make the appropriate arrangements to place copies of this document in the Libraries of the House.

Postwatch: Publications

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of producing the Postwatch publication Post, present and future was. [245240]

Mr. McFadden: The cost of producing the hardback report, "Post, present and future", published by Postwatch is given as follows:

Production costs: £29,010

Public Houses

Mr. Price: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the number of public houses in England in *(a)* hamlets and isolated dwellings, *(b)* villages, *(c)* towns and fringe settlements and *(d)* settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. [243172]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of public houses in England in (a) hamlets and isolated dwellings, (b) villages, (c) town and fringe settlements and (d) settlements of more than 10,000 inhabitants in each year since 1997. (243172)

Estimates for the urban-rural geography are only available from 2005. The table below contains counts of local units classified to public houses using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC), version 2003, taken from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR).

Counts of Local Units for Public Houses and Bars, excluding licensed clubs (SIC 5540 excluding 55401): England

	Urban >10,000 population	Town and Fringe	Village	Hamlet and Isolated Dwelling	Total
2005	30,050	4,560	6,565	2,580	43,955
2006	29,600	4,540	6,520	2,740	43,400
2007	29,740	4,590	6,540	2,705	43,575
2008	28,995	4,485	6,440	2,795	42,715

Note:
Annual estimates are extracted from the IDBR at March each year

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [243257]

Mr. McFadden: The numbers of staff who received payments in the requested bands are as follows:

	Up to £25,000	£25,001 to £50,000	£50,001 to £75,000	£75,001 to £100,000	Over £100,000	Total
Voluntary						
2005-06	65	29	21	9	12	136
2006-07	35	39	46	22	35	177
2007-08	31	41	46	17	17	152
Involuntary						
2005-06	7	5	7	1	3	23
2006-07	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007-08	5	8	4	3	0	20

Payments include pension lump sums as well as compensation awards.

The Department will always try to deal with staff surpluses by means other than redundancy. If redundancies become unavoidable, the Department will endeavour to reduce staff by voluntary rather than involuntary means wherever possible.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how much each regional development agency plans to spend on cohesion and integration work in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two subsequent years; [245522]

(2) how many staff in each regional development agency work on cohesion and integration; and what the cost of employing these staff is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two subsequent years. [245521]

Mr. McFadden: While regional development agencies (RDAs) take account of cohesion and integration issues, RDAs do not record expenditure according to cohesion and integration as a category of corporate spending. Furthermore, to separate out those data would incur disproportionate cost.

Regional Development Agencies: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the value for money provided by regional development agencies. [245971]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs. Their report has just been completed and I will be presenting it to the House shortly.

Regional Economic Council

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 425W, on the Regional Economic Council, where on his Department's website the notes following each regional economic council are located. [243805]

Mr. McFadden: The minutes can be found on the BERR website:

www.berr.gov.uk

under the 'What we do' heading and 'Regional Economic Development' section. A link to the Regional Economic Council will be found on this page.

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/regional/index.html

Retail Trade: Reading

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many independent retailers were operating in the Reading Borough Council area in each of the last 10 years. [244438]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many independent retailers were operating in the Reading Borough Council area in each of the last 10 years. (244438)

The Office for National Statistics publishes estimates of the number of enterprises by-UK Standard Industrial Classification (version 2003). Using this classification, it is not possible to separately identify independent retailers. The table covers independent retailers, any chain with its headquarters in Reading and retailers operating franchises. Shops belonging to retail chains are not included in these figures. Please see Annex A for further detail.

Between 2007 and 2008 there was a change of definition, which means that it is not possible to make a direct comparison using the published data. Prior to 2008 only VAT registered enterprises were included in the publication. In 2008 the publication was widened to include enterprises with only a PAYE record, as well as VAT registered enterprises.

The 2008 figure based on the old VAT only definition is 380.

Enterprises classified to SIC 52 Retail Trade in Reading Unitary Authority

	Number of retail enterprises
1999	415
2000	400
2001	400
2002	380
2003	355
2004	350
2005	350
2006	360
2007	360
2008[1]	[1]420

[1] Wider VAT and/or PAYE based definition.

Annex A

The data are taken from the Interdepartmental Business Register, and are available in an on-line publication called UK business: activity, size and location.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

The Standard Industrial Classification does not enable independent retailers to be separately identified. The IDBR comprises of enterprises and local units. The shops belonging to retail chains will be categorised as local units. Local Unit tables are also available in UK business: activity size and location. The enterprise data will contain independent retailers, any chain with its headquarters in Reading and also retailers operating franchises.

The data are for Reading Unitary Authority.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost of necessary Royal Mail plant modernisation. [245820]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to negotiate access for Royal Mail to the *(a)* Dutch, *(b)* German and *(c)* French postal systems. [246058]

Mr. McFadden: A new postal directive was adopted at the end of January 2008 confirming that most member states, including the Dutch, German and French postal sectors, will be opened up to full access and competition by 1 January 2011.

The Government will continue to promote an open, transparent, cost-based, and non-discriminatory market for both domestic and international mail within the framework of the WTO GATS, Universal Postal Union (UPU) and EU obligations.

Royal Mail: Christmas

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to Royal Mail was of *(a)* producing and *(b)* delivering the Christmas cards it recently sent to every household in the UK. [246157]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail: Manpower

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of part privatisation of Royal Mail on the number of jobs in the organisation; and if he will make a statement. [246804]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are taking forward the proposal for Royal Mail to enter into a strategic minority partnership with a postal operator with a proven record in transforming its business, working closely with the workforce. Royal Mail will remain publicly owned.

Any impact on jobs associated with the modernisation of Royal Mail is an operational matter for the management of the company.

Royal Mail: Pay

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the remuneration package of the chief executive of Royal Mail is; and what proportion of his remuneration is paid from public funds. [245697]

Mr. McFadden: The level of the chief executive's remuneration package is a matter for Royal Mail's remuneration committee. I have therefore asked the company secretary of Royal Mail to reply direct to the hon. Member.

All of Adam Crozier's remuneration is paid from Royal Mail funds.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Small Businesses: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small and medium-sized enterprises operating in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area and *(c)* Cheadle constituency have been declared bankrupt in each year since 1997. [244813]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* There is insufficient detailed information held centrally and in a readily available format to provide an answer to this question. This is because:

corporate insolvency statistics are not currently available at a sub-national level; and

the administrative systems that record corporate insolvencies do not record the size of the businesses concerned.

Tata Steel

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with Tata Industries on the long-term future of the steel industry in the UK. [245676]

Ian Pearson: The Department enjoys an excellent relationship with Corus, which has been a subsidiary of Tata Steel since April 2007, and there is regular contact between BERR and Corus on a number of issues of interest to the company and the UK steel industry more widely.

Trade Unions: Elections

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will seek to amend section 14 of the Employment Act 1988 to allow seafaring union members to participate in votes via the internet when absent at sea. [244741]

Mr. McFadden: Section 54 of the Employment Relations Act 2004 provides an order-making power for the Secretary of State to widen the methods of voting which can be used in statutory ballots and elections under trade union law. The Government have no plans at present to use that power.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider seeking to amend section 14 of the Employment Act 1988 to take account of the position of seafarers who are frequently absent from home. [244742]

Mr. McFadden: We have no current plans to amend the law on the political fund ballots.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1255W, on Admiralty House, what catering services were provided by the Cabinet Office's provider on a re-charge basis. [245887]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply that was given to him on 9 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 94W.

Average Earnings

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the mean gross weekly full-time earnings were for *(a)* male employees, *(b)* female employees and *(c)* all employees according to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings for people aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 20, (iii) 21 to 24, (iv) 25 to 29, (v) 30 to 39, (vi) 40 to 49, (vii) 50 to 59, (viii) 60 to 64 and (ix) 65 and over in each year between 1997 and 2007. [243711]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the mean gross weekly full-time earnings were for (a) male employees, (b) female employees and (c) all employees according to the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings for people aged (i) under 18, (ii) 18 to 20, (iii) 21 to 24, (iv) 25 to 29, (v) 30 to 39, (vi) 40 to 49, (vii) 50 to 59, (viii) 60 to 64 and (ix) 65 and over in each year between 1997 and 2007. (243711)

Average levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

I attach a table showing the mean gross weekly earnings for the specified age groupings for all years since 1997.

Mean weekly pay - gross (£) for employee jobs[a]: United Kingdom, 1997 to 2008

	Age under 18	Age 18-20	Age 21-24	Age 25-29	Age 30-39	Age 40-49	Age 50-59	Age 60-64	Age 65 and over
Full-time									
1997	172	193	233	322	402	421	392	352	*331
1998	163	203	269	337	422	441	418	357	339
1999	173	210	284	352	436	455	431	377	*374
2000	192	217	287	370	454	476	444	390	388
2001	196	225	303	398	484	499	467	400	*406
2002	213	238	311	419	508	524	488	417	*419
2003	198	240	314	428	522	545	501	428	*436
2004[b]	216	249	324	442	541	567	524	443	428
2004	218	246	330	433	531	560	519	446	417
2005	209	253	327	444	556	583	544	473	*456
2006[c]	209	262	334	452	576	611	569	509	*507
2006	210	262	333	451	574	608	567	508	*506
2007	216	273	348	464	591	625	582	521	*476
2008	221	282	359	482	611	653	613	541	*507
Full-time Male									
1997	*185	214	278	344	432	475	440	377	*357
1998	179	224	295	361	455	498	478	382	*364
1999	179	227	312	376	479	512	499	401	*422
2000	*204	235	310	396	489	534	504	415	*422
2001	*201	240	325	425	521	560	529	423	*440
2002	222	256	332	447	545	588	552	442	*470
2003	199	254	334	436	563	612	563	454	*474
2004[b]	*229	262	342	467	581	632	587	465	*459
2004	*225	260	336	458	569	628	581	469	*450
2005	217	264	340	468	596	651	607	497	*500
2006[c]	203	277	349	475	616	687	635	537	*559
2006	204	276	347	473	613	683	634	536	*557
2007	217	288	366	483	630	699	653	550	*515
2008	219	295	376	500	652	734	685	571	*551
Full-time Female									
1997	*160	172	228	293	342	325	297	255	*251
1998	144	181	241	306	357	337	311	260	*260
1999	165	193	254	322	371	355	326	286	*255
2000	*182	197	262	334	386	370	339	292	*284
2001	191	207	279	362	413	389	358	313	*289
2002	*202	218	288	383	436	410	377	330	299
2003	195	223	292	392	448	427	396	342	*315
2004[b]	197	233	305	410	466	453	420	369	*332
2004	209	230	303	403	463	448	418	369	*313
2005	200	239	313	417	486	469	446	399	*347
2006[c]	218	242	319	426	499	488	465	425	369
2006	220	243	318	424	498	484	461	421	368
2007	*215	253	327	439	521	498	473	436	377
2008	*226	266	338	460	540	519	504	453	398

[a] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[b] 2004 results excluding supplementary survey for comparison with 2003.
[c] 2004 results including supplementary surveys designed to improve coverage of the survey (for more information see National Statistics website www.statistics.gov.uk).
[d] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2005.
[e] 2006 results with methodology consistent with 2007.

Guide to quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Key:
CV<= 5%
* CV> 5% and <= 10%

Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics, 1997-2008

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [242581]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each UK parliamentary constituency in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [242581]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006 for England and Wales, and the year 2005 for Scotland and Northern Ireland. Table 1 showing the

numbers of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer for (a) men, and Table 2 for (b) women, in each UK parliamentary constituency for the years 2001 to 2005, and in each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales for 2006, have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Census

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the timetable for the Census rehearsal is. [246060]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the timetable for the Census rehearsal is.[246060]

The rehearsal for the Census in England and Wales will take place on 11 October 2009 in some 61,000 households in Lancaster, 40,000 in Newham and 34,000 in the Isle of Anglesey.

The aims of the rehearsal are to rehearse the field operations and processing activities for a defined set of addresses; to pilot and evaluate all aspects of the 2011 Census design; to identify aspects for improvement and to develop effective ways of working with local authorities, community groups and other stakeholders.

We are already working closely with the local authorities in these areas to establish effective ways of working together in preparation for 2011 and are currently developing form-tracking and operational systems. Address checking in rehearsal areas begins in February and will continue until the end of April. The award of the contract for recruitment, payment and training of field staff is expected at the end of March. Publicity in rehearsal areas will be launched in April. In June the rehearsal questionnaires will be printed and field staff training will begin. Delivery of questionnaires, primarily by post-out but by hand in some areas and to communal establishments will start in September. Also in September the on line facility and contact centre will be available. Although the rehearsal is voluntary, some of the follow-up procedures will be rehearsed and this will begin soon after 11 October.

The questionnaires to be used in the 2009 rehearsal have recently been released and are available on the website at

http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/2011-census-questionnaire-content/2009-rehearsal-questionnaire/index.html

Charities: Economic Situation

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment his Department has made of the effect on charitable bodies of the economic downturn. [246145]

Kevin Brennan: On 24 November, the Minister for the third sector co-chaired a summit on the impact of the downturn on the third sector, including charitable bodies, at which a number of the key third sector representative bodies provided information. A summary of this discussion is available on the Office of the Third Sector website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/101516/summit_summary.pdf.

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government is taking to support charities in the economic downturn. [246147]

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government is taking to support charities during the economic downturn. [246535]

Kevin Brennan: On 24 November, the Minister for the third sector co-chaired a summit with NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) on the impact of the downturn on the third sector. At the summit, the Minister announced plans to publish a Government action plan in the new year. The action plan will embed a response to the downturn across the OTS' existing activities and work across Government to develop responses to remaining unmet needs.

Charities: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps his Department is taking to ensure that charities receive money donated through street fundraisers. [245035]

Kevin Brennan: Effective public fundraising is important for the charity sector. Professional fundraisers are required to make a statement indicating that they are paid, when fundraising from members of the public. The Charities Act 2006 has strengthened this requirement, and professional fundraisers must now also state the amount of remuneration they receive in connection with an appeal. It also provides for a new licensing regime for public charitable collections and the Office of the Third Sector has announced plans to undertake independent research into the costs and benefits of implementing this regime.

Civil Service: Pensions

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures will be applied to overpayments of pensions to former civil servants. [246275]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made to the House on 16 December.

My statement explained that the Government would not be seeking to recover any pension overpayments, arising from the incorrect indexation of Guaranteed Minimum Pensions, made to former civil servants or other public service pensioners. It also set out the Government's intention to correct pensions in April, when pensions increase is applied to civil service and other public service pensions.

Commission for the Compact

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role the Commission for the Compact has in relation to local government. [245925]

Kevin Brennan: The Commission for the Compact is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Compact at both national and local levels. It works with all stakeholders, including local government, promoting partnership working through the Compact. All top tier local authority areas have a Local Compact in place. The Commission's role is to increase awareness, share good practice and carry out research, looking at key themes that affect the relationship between the statutory and voluntary sector.

The Office of the Third Sector is taking forward the recommendations from the recent debate on the future of the Compact. As well as a refresh of the Compact,

and putting the Commission on a statutory footing, the Commission's board will be enlarged so that it is more representative. This will include local government representation.

Death: Carbon Monoxide

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Portsmouth in the last 10 years. [244508]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Portsmouth in the last 10 years. (244508)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death for people in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Portsmouth, from 1998 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1,2] and Portsmouth[3] 1998 to 2007[4]

		Deaths (persons)
	UK	*Portsmouth*
1998	828	1
1999	800	5
2000	662	1
2001	568	1
2002	503	4
2003	425	1
2004	404	2
2005	302	1
2006	302	0
2007	281	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 986 for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58 for 2001 onwards, for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and ICD-9 for the years 1997 to 1999 and ICD-10 for the years 2000 to 2006 for Scotland.
[2] Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland have been provided by the Registrars General for these countries.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Weather

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in each parliamentary constituency in England in each year since 1996-97. [240532]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in England in each constituency in each year since 1996-97. (240532)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. The table provides the number of excess winter deaths in each parliamentary constituency in England, 1996/97 to 2005/06 (the latest available). A copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date statistical data will next be published on excess winter deaths; and if he will make a statement. [246098]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated December 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking on what date statistical data will next be published on excess winter deaths. (246098)

Currently, ONS publishes excess winter mortality figures in November each year. The most recent excess winter mortality figures for England and Wales were published on 27th November, which included final figures for winter 2006/07 and provisional figures for winter 2007/08.[1] The date for next year's publication has still to be fixed.

ONS also publishes weekly estimates of the numbers of deaths registered in England and Wales. These can be found on the National Statistics website at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=9684

[1] Office for National Statistics (2008). Report: Excess winter mortality in England and Wales, 2007/08 (provisional) and 2006/07 (final). Health Statistics Quarterly 40, 66-76

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with how many faith-based organisations his Department has contracts to provide public services. [244842]

Kevin Brennan: In making contracts for the provision of public services, my Department selects those organisations that meet the proper criteria and have the most relevant expertise and experience to offer. The extent to which such organisations are faith-based is not evident in every case. An accurate total or comprehensive list could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how much was spent by the Prime Minister's Office on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000; [244353]

(2) how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244362]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff members in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the

course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [241800]

Kevin Brennan: The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the Civil Service Management Code, and in departmental staff handbooks.

The information requested is not held centrally in my Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240478]

Kevin Brennan: Expenditure on official hospitality including alcohol is recorded on the Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Any proposal to purchase alcohol for hospitality purposes requires the prior approval of the Cabinet Office Finance Director.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements are in place for the procurement of services for official Ministerial residences in Downing Street; and if he will make a statement. [242263]

Kevin Brennan: The procurement of facilities services across the Cabinet Office estate is provided by the total facilities management provider for the Cabinet Office. Some cleaning services are provided by Cabinet Office staff.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many individuals have worked in his Department on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid work experience or internships in each of the past three years; on average how many hours a week were worked by such people in each year; what types of work each was involved in; what proportion were in full-time education; what proportion did not complete their set period of work experience; and how much those who received remuneration were paid on average per week in each year. [242120]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office encourages managers to support applications from students, postgraduates and others in the wider community wishing to undertake work experience. The Cabinet Office does not keep any central records of individuals undertaking work experience and the information could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Disclosure of Information

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions in each of the last four years the Government has sought the assistance of the police to investigate unauthorised disclosures of information under *(a)* the Official Secrets Act and *(b)* the offence of misconduct in a public office; and how many of those investigations resulted in (i) dismissals, (ii) other disciplinary measures, (iii) prosecutions and (iv) convictions. [244237]

Mr. Byrne: Departments will seek the assistance of the police where they consider a criminal offence may have been committed. It is for the police, not Departments, to determine whether an investigation is carried out and what the potential criminal offence justifying an investigation is. The procedures when police get involved were set out by the Cabinet Secretary in his note to PASC, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

It would not be appropriate to provide information about investigations that are still open. It is however a matter of public record that there have been three successful prosecutions under the Official Secrets Act: David Keogh (2007); Richard Jackson (2008); and, Corporal Daniel James (2008). Corporal James was also successfully prosecuted for Misconduct in Public Office.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in each workforce sector in (i) each of the last four quarters and (ii) each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will also express such numbers as a proportion of the workforce in each sector in each period. [246179]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in each workforce sector in (i) each of the last four quarters and (ii) each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will also express such numbers as a proportion of the workforce in each sector in each period. (246179)

The requested information is shown in the attached tables.

Workforce Jobs estimates compiled from employer surveys are the preferred source for breakdowns of employment by industrial sector. However, in order to provide the nationality and country of birth breakdown requested, the Labour Force Survey (LFS) has been used.

The industry definitions used to answer this question should not be compared with the public/private breakdown given in your parliamentary question 246180.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata, which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment levels and percentages[1] working in each workforce sector for working-age[2] people by nationality and country of birth, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentages

Agriculture, Fishing, Energy and Water[3]

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	677	98	666	97	12	2	*	*	*	*
2000 Q3	671	98	658	96	16	2	*	*	*	*
2001 Q3	668	98	653	96	16	2	*	*	*	*
2002 Q3	653	98	635	95	14	2	*	*	*	*
2003 Q3	623	98	609	96	10	2	*	*	*	*
2004 Q3	632	98	619	96	13	2	*	*	*	*
2005 Q3	627	98	609	95	14	2	*	*	*	*
2006 Q3	626	96	611	94	23	4	*	*	*	*
2007 Q3	659	96	642	93	30	4	*	*	*	*
2007 Q4	668	95	654	93	38	5	*	*	*	*
2008 Q1	645	94	631	92	41	6	*	*	*	*
2008 Q2	639	94	645	92	44	6	*	*	*	*
2008 Q3[6]	*657	94	*640	92	***40	6	*	*	*	*

Thousands and percentages

Manufacturing

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	4,609	97	4,435	94	131	3	45	1	86	2
2000 Q3	4,385	97	4,241	94	138	3	50	1	88	2
2001 Q3	4,242	97	4,088	93	142	3	61	1	81	2
2002 Q3	4,120	97	3,970	93	144	3	50	1	94	2
2003 Q3	3,812	97	3,671	93	136	3	48	1	87	2
2004 Q3	3,628	96	3,500	92	168	4	73	2	95	2
2005 Q3	3,520	95	3,371	91	182	5	89	2	93	3
2006 Q3	3,416	93	3,282	90	239	7	126	3	113	3
2007 Q3	3,359	92	3,198	88	291	8	179	5	112	3
2007 Q4	3,309	92	3,147	87	290	8	184	5	106	3
2008 Q1	3,234	92	3,079	88	280	8	176	5	104	3
2008 Q2	3,166	92	3,022	88	285	8	178	5	107	3
2008 Q3[6]	*3,146	92	*3,002	88	**271	8	**166	5	***105	3

Thousands and percentages

Construction

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	1,811	97	1,775	95	55	3	36	2	19	1
2000 Q3	1,889	97	1,853	95	52	3	33	2	19	1
2001 Q3	1,958	98	1,918	96	48	2	29	1	20	1
2002 Q3	1,944	97	1,903	95	63	3	29	1	34	2
2003 Q3	2,092	97	2,055	95	72	3	29	1	44	2
2004 Q3	2,124	96	2,077	94	85	4	55	3	30	1
2005 Q3	2,199	96	2,158	94	96	4	55	2	42	2
2006 Q3	2,205	95	2,160	93	118	5	69	3	49	2
2007 Q3	2,235	95	2,182	92	124	5	85	4	39	2
2007 Q4	2,209	94	2,157	92	137	6	101	4	36	2
2008 Q1	2,186	93	2,127	91	159	7	117	5	41	2
2008 Q2	2,171	94	2,115	91	144	6	100	4	44	2
2008 Q3[6]	*2,252	94	*2,200	91	**154	6	***112	5	***41	2

Thousands and percentages

Distribution, hotels and restaurants

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	5,036	96	4,812	91	225	4	83	2	142	3
2000 Q3	5,016	95	4,786	91	246	5	89	2	158	3
2001 Q3	4,953	93	4,739	91	280	5	100	2	180	3
2002 Q3	5,042	95	4,796	90	292	5	95	2	196	4

Thousands and percentages

Distribution, hotels and restaurants

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
2003 Q3	5,165	94	4,891	89	316	6	105	2	211	4
2004 Q3	5,137	94	4,884	89	320	6	114	2	207	4
2005 Q3	5,014	94	4,757	89	340	6	124	2	216	4
2006 Q3	4,934	92	4,662	87	419	8	158	3	260	5
2007 Q3	4,854	92	4,594	87	444	8	195	4	249	5
2007 Q4	4,893	91	4,626	86	477	9	195	4	282	5
2008 Q1	4,893	91	4,634	86	470	9	211	4	259	5
2008 Q2	4,948	91	4,576	86	490	9	217	4	273	5
2008 Q3[6]	*4,875	90	*4,592	85	**515	10	**215	4	**300	6

Thousands and percentages

Transport and communication

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	1,753	96	1,672	92	69	4	28	2	41	2
2000 Q3	1,823	95	1,744	91	92	5	36	2	56	3
2001 Q3	1,866	96	1,770	91	80	4	33	2	47	2
2002 Q3	1,820	95	1,715	90	91	5	34	2	57	3
2003 Q3	1,780	95	1,690	90	92	5	36	2	57	3
2004 Q3	1,781	95	1,673	89	94	5	33	2	61	3
2005 Q3	1,832	94	1,708	88	112	6	51	3	61	3
2006 Q3	1,786	93	1,675	87	134	7	62	3	72	4
2007 Q3	1,759	92	1,631	85	152	8	79	4	73	4
2007 Q4	1,741	92	1,607	85	140	7	76	4	64	3
2008 Q1	1,756	91	1,618	84	171	9	87	4	84	4
2008 Q2	1,749	91	1,609	84	164	9	88	5	77	4
2008 Q3[6]	*1,792	92	*1,650	85	**147	8	***79	4	***68	4

Thousands and percentages

Banking, finance and insurance

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	3,879	95	3,688	91	186	5	74	2	113	3
2000 Q3	3,994	95	3,816	90	227	5	84	2	142	3
2001 Q3	4,041	94	3,853	89	264	6	98	2	166	4
2002 Q3	4,030	93	3,827	89	283	7	104	2	179	4
2003 Q3	4,016	94	3,798	88	279	6	102	2	177	4
2004 Q3	3,990	93	3,783	88	286	7	99	2	187	4
2005 Q3	4,099	93	3,875	88	320	7	135	3	185	4
2006 Q3	4,087	92	3,865	87	357	8	119	3	238	5
2007 Q3	4,266	91	4,001	86	411	9	167	4	244	5
2007 Q4	4,261	91	3,997	85	443	9	173	4	271	6
2008 Q1	4,175	90	3,931	84	481	10	198	4	283	6
2008 Q2	4,183	89	3,938	84	491	11	210	4	281	6
2008 Q3[6]	*4,159	90	*3,916	84	**485	10	**195	4	**289	6

Thousands and percentages

Public administration, education and health

	UK nationals		UK born		Non-UK nationals[4]		Non-UK EU national[5]		Non-EU nationals	
	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage	Level	Percentage
1999 Q3	6,234	96	5,959	92	239	4	112	2	127	2
2000 Q3	6,401	96	6,123	92	269	4	106	2	163	2
2001 Q3	6,518	96	6,236	92	278	4	103	2	175	3
2002 Q3	6,677	95	6,375	91	315	5	111	2	204	3
2003 Q3	6,902	95	6,588	91	369	5	117	2	252	3
2004 Q3	7,238	95	6,901	90	402	5	133	2	269	4
2005 Q3	7,379	94	7,039	90	455	6	160	2	296	4
2006 Q3	7,360	94	6,997	89	481	6	154	2	327	4
2007 Q3	7,244	93	6,868	89	501	6	175	2	326	4
2007 Q4	7,328	94	6,952	89	489	6	178	2	312	4

Thousands and percentages

Public administration, education and health

	UK nationals		*UK born*		*Non-UK nationals*[4]		*Non-UK EU national*[5]		*Non-EU nationals*	
	Level	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*
2008 Q1	7,358	94	6,968	89	502	6	176	2	326	4
2008 Q2	7,447	94	7,042	88	512	6	177	2	335	4
2008 Q3[6]	*7,363	93	*6,971	88	**538	7	**191	2	**346	4

Thousands and percentages

Other services

	UK nationals		*UK born*		*Non-UK nationals*[4]		*Non-UK EU national*[5]		*Non-EU nationals*	
	Level	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*
1999 Q3	1,476	95	1,425	91	83	5	34	2	49	3
2000 Q3	1,482	94	1,425	90	100	6	38	2	61	4
2001 Q3	1,467	94	1,421	91	101	6	35	2	67	4
2002 Q3	1,504	94	1,454	91	95	6	31	2	64	4
2003 Q3	1,557	94	1,504	91	97	6	32	2	65	4
2004 Q3	1,530	94	1,462	90	93	6	41	3	52	3
2005 Q3	1,545	95	1,479	90	89	5	36	2	53	3
2006 Q3	1,612	92	1,540	88	131	8	53	3	78	4
2007 Q3	1,566	92	1,508	88	140	8	69	4	71	4
2007 Q4	1,562	91	1,504	88	144	8	79	5	65	4
2008 Q1	1,545	92	1,483	88	141	8	79	5	62	4
2008 Q2	1,574	93	1,510	89	122	7	68	4	54	3
2008 Q3[6]	*1,595	93	*1,524	89	***119	7	***60	3	***59	3

* The estimates have been suppressed as they are deemed unreliable for practical purposes.

[1] The percentages show the associated levels expressed as a proportion of the total number of working-age people (including those who did not state their nationality or country of birth) working in each workforce sector.

[2] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.

[3] The industry sector Agriculture and Fishing has been grouped with Energy and Water due to small sample sizes.

[4] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.

[5] The A8 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and are included from 2004 Q3 onwards. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included from 2007 Q1 onwards.

[6] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180 to 220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the aforementioned estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals and *(e)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in each of (A) the last four quarters and (B) the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will also express such numbers as a proportion of each sector in each case. [246180]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals and (e) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in (i) the public sector and (ii) the private sector in each of (A) the last four quarters and (B) the last 10 years for which figures are available; and if he will also express such numbers as a proportion of each sector in each case. (246180)

The requested information is shown in the attached tables.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) in order to provide the breakdowns by nationality and country of birth. These estimates are based on the respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. They do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates, which come directly from surveys of employers and are based on National Accounts definitions.

The public sector definition used to answer this question should not be compared with the industry sector breakdown given in your parliamentary question 246179.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata, which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment levels and percentage[1] working in each sector for working-age[2] people by nationality and country of birth, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and Percentages

Public Sector

	UK Nationals		*UK born*		*Non-UK nationals[3]*		*Non-UK EU national[4]*		*Non-EU nationals*	
	Level	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*
1999 Q3	5,723	96	5,484	92	218	4	93	2	125	2
2000 Q3	5,847	96	5,615	92	239	4	93	2	146	2
2001 Q3	5,850	96	5,597	92	234	4	76	1	157	3
2002 Q3	5,993	96	5,730	92	261	4	94	2	167	3
2003 Q3	6,056	95	5,785	91	289	5	92	1	197	3
2004 Q3	6,311	95	6,026	91	321	5	111	2	209	3
2005 Q3	6,399	95	6,117	90	364	5	132	2	232	3
2006 Q3	6,352	95	6,056	90	355	5	114	2	241	4
2007 Q3	6,214	94	5,900	90	367	6	136	2	231	4
2007 Q4	6,305	94	5,979	90	367	5	148	2	218	3
2008 Q1	6,299	94	5,970	89	384	6	136	2	249	4
2008 Q2	6,349	94	6,025	90	375	6	138	2	236	4
2008 Q3[5]	*6,293	94	*5,973	90	**373	6	***134	2	**238	4

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Private Sector

	UK Nationals		*UK born*		*Non-UK nationals[3]*		*Non-UK EU national[4]*		*Non-EU nationals*	
	Level	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*	*Level*	*Percentage*
1999 Q3	19,683	96	18,882	92	788	4	329	2	459	2
2000 Q3	19,751	96	18,967	92	900	4	352	2	548	3
2001 Q3	19,803	95	19,024	92	975	5	388	2	587	3
2002 Q3	19,740	95	18,888	91	1,035	5	365	2	671	3
2003 Q3	19,807	95	18,939	91	1,075	5	380	2	695	3
2004 Q3	19,705	95	18,832	90	1,139	5	440	2	699	3
2005 Q3	19,774	94	18,836	90	1,249	6	522	2	726	3
2006 Q3	19,639	93	18,702	88	1,547	7	635	3	912	4
2007 Q3	19,688	92	18,681	87	1,731	8	830	4	900	4
2007 Q4	19,618	92	18,617	87	1,795	8	859	4	936	4
2008 Q1	19,447	91	18,457	87	1,853	9	925	4	928	4
2008 Q2	19,404	91	18,388	86	1,872	9	917	4	955	4
2008 Q3[5]	*19,513	91	*18,493	86	*1,895	9	*906	4	*988	5

[1] The percentages show the associated levels expressed as a proportion of the total number of working-age people (including those who did not state their nationality or country of birth) working in each sector.
[2] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[3] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[4] The A8 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and are included from 2004 Q3 onwards. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included from 2007 Q1 onwards.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* employment and *(b)* unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) people aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 35 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years educated to degree level was in each month of the last 10 years. [246577]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) employment and (b) unemployment rate for (i) women, (ii) men and (iii) men and women aged (A) 16 to 24, (B) 25 to 34, (C) 35 to 49 and (D) 50 to 60 years educated to degree level was in each month of the last 10 years. (246577)

The attached tables provide estimated employment and unemployment rates for the age categories requested based on those educated to at least degree level or equivalent, for each quarter since 1998. Monthly data are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently, the figures from quarter 3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment rates[1], by age and gender for those educated to degree level or equivalent calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Men				Women				People			
	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60
1998												
Q1	76	93	96	84	80	86	86	81	78	90	92	83
Q2	75	93	96	85	79	87	85	80	77	90	91	83
Q3	75	94	95	84	77	87	84	78	75	89	91	83
Q4	77	93	96	85	77	87	85	79	77	90	91	83
1999												
Q1	80	93	96	85	80	88	86	78	80	91	92	83
Q2	79	94	96	84	79	88	86	80	79	91	92	83
Q3	75	94	95	84	77	87	84	78	76	91	90	82
Q4	80	95	96	84	83	87	85	79	82	91	91	83
2000												
Q1	83	95	96	84	81	88	86	81	82	91	91	83
Q2	82	95	96	86	81	88	85	82	81	92	92	84
Q3	76	95	96	85	77	89	86	81	77	92	92	84
Q4	79	95	96	87	80	89	87	83	80	92	92	85
2001												
Q1	79	94	96	87	82	88	86	82	81	91	92	85
Q2	80	93	96	87	82	88	87	82	80	91	91	85
Q3	75	93	96	86	78	87	86	81	77	90	91	84
Q4	81	93	94	86	82	88	86	83	82	91	91	85
2002												
Q1	78	93	95	87	82	89	86	83	80	91	91	85
Q2	77	94	95	86	83	88	86	82	80	91	91	85
Q3	73	93	95	86	77	88	85	83	75	90	90	85
Q4	79	93	95	86	80	88	85	81	80	91	91	84
2003												
Q1	76	93	95	85	78	88	86	82	77	90	91	84
Q2	77	93	95	88	80	88	86	81	78	91	91	85
Q3	76	93	94	86	75	87	85	80	75	90	90	84
Q4	74	92	95	86	80	89	86	81	77	91	91	84
2004												
Q1	81	93	94	85	80	89	86	82	81	91	91	84
Q2	82	93	95	86	80	90	86	83	81	91	91	85
Q3	75	93	95	85	76	87	85	82	76	90	91	84
Q4	77	93	95	85	79	88	87	83	78	91	92	84
2005												
Q1	81	94	95	85	78	87	87	83	79	91	92	85
Q2	77	93	95	86	81	88	88	85	79	90	92	85
Q3	73	93	95	85	77	88	88	84	75	90	92	85
Q4	77	94	95	85	81	88	87	82	79	91	91	84
2006												
Q1	79	93	95	85	83	88	87	84	82	91	91	85
Q2	77	93	95	86	82	89	87	83	80	91	91	85
Q3	73	94	95	85	78	88	85	84	77	91	91	83
Q4	75	94	95	86	78	87	87	82	77	90	91	84
2007												
Q1	78	93	95	85	80	88	87	84	79	91	91	84
Q2	78	94	95	85	81	89	86	84	80	91	91	84
Q3	73	94	95	85	78	88	85	84	76	91	90	85
Q4	80	94	96	86	80	89	86	83	80	92	91	85
2008												
Q1	80	93	96	86	80	89	85	82	80	91	91	84
Q2	77	94	95	86	79	89	86	81	78	91	91	84
Q3	70	93	95	85	76	87	86	81	74	90	90	83

[1] Employment rate is calculated as the number of people in employment as a percentage of the population in the individual category.

Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Unemployment rates[1], by age and gender for those educated to degree level or equivalent, calendar quarters, 1998 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Men				Women				People			
	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60	16 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 60
1998												
Q1	9	3	2	3	7	4	2	3	8	3	2	3
Q2	9	2	2	4	8	3	3	3	8	3	2	3
Q3	16	4	2	3	12	4	4	3	14	4	3	3
Q4	12	3	2	4	7	3	3	3	9	3	2	3
1999												
Q1	8	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	6	3	2	3
Q2	7	2	2	2	5	2	3	3	6	2	2	2
Q3	12	3	2	3	10	3	3	3	11	3	3	3
Q4	7	2	2	4	5	3	3	4	6	3	2	4
2000												
Q1	7	2	2	4	6	3	2	3	7	3	2	4
Q2	6	2	1	3	5	2	2	3	5	2	2	3
Q3	11	2	2	3	11	3	3	2	11	2	2	3
Q4	11	3	1	3	8	2	2	1	9	2	2	2
2001												
Q1	8	2	2	2	4	2	2	2	6	2	2	2
Q2	6	3	2	2	5	2	2	1	6	3	2	2
Q3	14	3	2	2	10	3	2	3	12	3	2	3
Q4	9	3	3	3	6	3	2	2	7	3	3	2
2002												
Q1	9	4	3	2	6	2	2	2	7	3	3	2
Q2	9	3	2	3	4	3	2	1	6	3	2	2
Q3	16	4	3	3	12	3	3	1	14	4	3	3
Q4	10	3	2	3	9	2	2	2	7	3	2	3
2003												
Q1	11	3	2	4	5	2	3	2	8	3	3	3
Q2	9	3	3	2	4	2	2	2	7	3	2	2
Q3	14	3	3	3	12	2	3	2	13	3	3	3
Q4	11	3	2	3	6	2	2	3	9	3	2	3
2004												
Q1	7	3	2	4	6	2	2	2	7	3	2	3
Q2	6	3	2	2	4	1	2	2	5	2	2	2
Q3	12	3	2	2	10	3	2	2	11	3	2	2
Q4	10	3	1	2	6	2	2	2	8	2	2	2
2005												
Q1	7	2	2	3	7	3	2	2	7	2	2	2
Q2	9	3	2	2	4	2	1	2	6	2	2	2
Q3	12	2	2	3	9	3	2	1	9	2	2	2
Q4	10	2	2	3	7	3	2	2	10	2	2	2
2006												
Q1	7	3	2	2	5	3	2	2	9	3	2	2
Q2	9	3	2	2	7	2	2	2	9	3	2	2
Q3	13	2	2	3	12	3	2	2	12	3	2	2
Q4	11	2	2	2	9	3	2	2	10	3	2	2
2007												
Q1	9	3	2	2	7	2	2	1	8	2	2	2
Q2	8	2	2	3	6	2	2	2	6	2	2	2
Q3	13	2	2	2	9	2	2	2	11	2	2	2
Q4	8	2	2	3	6	2	2	2	7	2	2	2
2008												
Q1	8	2	2	2	6	2	3	2	7	2	2	2
Q2	8	2	2	2	6	2	2	1	7	2	2	2
Q3	17	3	2	3	12	4	2	3	14	3	2	3

[1] Unemployment rate is calculated as the number of people in unemployment as a percentage of the economically active population in the individual category

Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* males, *(b)* females, *(c)* foreign nationals and *(d)* individuals have been in (i) public sector employment, (ii) private sector employment and (iii) employment in each year since 1978. [246806]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) males, (b) females, (c) foreign nationals and (d) individuals have been in (i) public sector employment, (ii) private sector employment and (iii) employment in each year since 1978. (246806)

The available information requested is provided in the attached table. Comparable estimates prior to 1995 are not available.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). These estimates are based on the respondents' views about the organisation for which they work. They do not correspond to official Public Sector Employment estimates, which come directly from employers and are based on National Accounts definitions.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures have been derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

People aged 16 and over in employment by public and private sector and by sex and nationality—three month period ending September, 1996 to 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Public sector[1,2]				*Private sector*[1,3]				*Employment*[1,4]		
	Persons	*Men*	*Women*	*Foreign nationals*	*Persons*	*Men*	*Women*	*Foreign nationals*	*Persons*	*Men*	*Women*	*Foreign nationals*
1995	6,090	2,405	3,636	206	19,718	11,666	8,051	651	25,998	14,235	11,763	868
1996	6,135	2,395	3,740	205	19,825	11,770	8,058	653	26,200	14,307	11,893	868
1997	6,094	2,389	3,706	229	20,598	12,240	8,318	757	26,707	14,589	12,118	986
1998	6,025	2,310	3,715	229	20,839	12,326	8,493	809	26,969	14,707	12,261	1,036
1999	6,111	2,278	3,833	226	21,169	12,538	8,571	807	27,351	14,897	12,454	1,036
2000	6,254	2,340	3,914	251	21,301	12,612	8,689	921	27,685	15,023	12,662	1,179
2001	6,280	2,294	3,986	245	21,442	12,780	8,662	998	27,839	15,136	12,704	1,249
2002	6,465	2,317	4,148	273	21,451	12,783	8,668	1,055	28,026	15,164	12,862	1,337
2003	6,558	2,375	4,182	298	21,631	12,932	8,698	1,100	28,331	15,381	12,949	1,410
2004	6,853	2,469	4,384	330	21,669	12,969	8,641	1,165	28,583	15,497	13,086	1,507
2005	6,989	2,528	4,464	373	21,853	13,041	8,812	1,275	28,960	15,640	13,319	1,658
2006	6,981	2,504	4,477	367	22,090	13,225	8,866	1,580	29,178	15,794	13,384	1,958
2007	6,869	2,430	4,439	378	22,374	13,437	8,937	1,759	29,382	15,923	13,459	2,152
2008[5]	[x]6,960	[x]2,475	[x]4,515	[xx]384	[x]22,896	[x]13,388	[x]9,018	[x]1,927	[x]29,533	[x]15,943	[x]13,589	[x]2,323

[1] It should be noted that public and private sector estimates,
are based on survey respondents' views about the organisation for which they work;
do not correspond to the National Accounts definition used for Public Sector Employment estimates.
[2] Includes nationalised industry or state corporation, central Government, civil service, local government or council (incl. police, fire services and local authority controlled schools or colleges), university/or other grant funded educational establishment, health authority or NHS trust and armed forces.
[3] Includes self-employed and unpaid family workers.
[4] Includes those whose type of employer was not known.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

[x] 0 < CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

[xx] 5 < CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

[xxx] 10 < CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

[xxxx] CV > 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of inward migrants to the UK *(a)* from other EU member states and *(b)* from non-EU member states intending to stay for 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [243965]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your question concerning what estimate has been made of the number of inward migrants to the UK (a) from other EU member states and (b) from non-EU member states intending to stay 12 months or more who cited work-related purposes as the main reason for migration in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. (243965)

Table 1, attached, gives an estimate of international immigration from other EU member states and non-EU member states for work-related reasons for the latest year available, 2007, by quarter.

This table is based solely on data from the International Passenger Survey.

Table 1: Migration to the UK for work related reasons, 2007. International migration, estimates from the International Passenger Survey. United Kingdom

Thousands

Inflow 2007	Country of last residence: All countries	Other EU27 countries	Non EU27 countries
Q1	54	32	22
Q2	54	29	25
Q3	71	35	36
Q4	51	30	22

Note:
Totals may not sum due to rounding

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [244377]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 17 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) UK nationals, (b) UK-born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age in the UK were in employment in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. 244377

The requested information is shown in the attached tables. Data for the EU A8 nationals is not available for 1997.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Employment rates for working age[1] people, by nationality and country of birth—Quarter 3 1997 to 2006; all calendar quarters from quarter 4 2006 to quarter 3 2008—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

		UK nationals	UK born	Non-UK nationals[2]	Non-UK EU nationals[3]	EU A8 nationals[4]	Non-EU nationals
1997	Q3	24,928	23,954	964	413	n/a	551
1998	Q3	25,185	24,195	1,010	440	17	570
1999	Q3	25,532	24,490	1,009	423	14	587
2000	Q3	25,718	24,700	1,146	447	21	700
2001	Q3	25,764	24,726	1,215	467	31	748
2002	Q3	25,831	24,713	1,304	460	35	844
2003	Q3	25,991	24,847	1,377	475	32	902
2004	Q3	26,122	24,958	1,472	557	82	915
2005	Q3	26,276	25,052	1,623	638	175	965
2006	Q3	26,085	24,849	1,913	753	297	1,160
2006	Q4	25,991	24,744	1,962	828	344	1,134
2007	Q1	25,794	24,529	1,978	897	368	1,080
2007	Q2	25,784	24,508	2,103	969	431	1,134
2007	Q3	26,023	24,694	2,113	969	430	1,144
2007	Q4	26,050	24,718	2,173	1,010	469	1,163
2008	Q1	25,870	24,547	2,254	1,068	500	1,186
2008	Q2	25,882	24,532	2,266	1,065	498	1,201
2008	Q3[5]	*25,928	*24,580	*2,279	*1,045	**504	*1,234

Percentage

		UK nationals	UK born	Non-UK nationals[2]	Non-UK EU nationals[3]	EU A8 nationals[4]	Non-EU nationals
1997	Q3	74	74	61	69	—	56
1998	Q3	75	75	61	70	58	55
1999	Q3	75	75	62	72	53	57
2000	Q3	76	76	62	74	54	56
2001	Q3	75	76	63	72	59	58
2002	Q3	75	76	63	72	62	59
2003	Q3	76	76	64	73	58	61
2004	Q3	76	76	65	73	74	61
2005	Q3	76	76	65	74	81	60
2006	Q3	75	76	69	77	82	65
2006	Q4	75	76	69	77	82	64
2007	Q1	75	75	67	77	81	60
2007	Q2	75	75	68	77	82	62
2007	Q3	75	76	69	78	84	62

Percentage

		UK nationals	*UK born*	*Non-UK nationals*[2]	*Non-UK EU nationals*[3]	*EU A8 nationals*[4]	*Non-EU nationals*
2007	Q4	76	76	68	79	84	61
2008	Q1	75	75	69	79	83	62
2008	Q2	75	75	69	79	84	62
2008	Q3	75	76	69	79	84	63

n/a= Data not available
[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
[2] Excludes those whose nationality was not known.
[3] The A8 joined the EU on 1 May 2004 and are included from 2004 Q3 onwards. Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January 2007 and are included from 2007 Q1 onwards.
[4] EU A8 comprises Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
[5] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353-5W, on migrant workers, what his most recent estimate of the number of migrant workers in the UK between 1997 and 2012 is. [246719]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate of the number of migrant workers in the UK between 1997 and 2012 is, with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil of 19 October 2007, Official Report, column 1353-5 W. (246719)

The attached table gives the number of people in employment in the UK of working age, who were either United Kingdom or foreign born, for the three month period ending September, for each year from 1997 to 2008. Projections of migrant workers to 2012 are not available from either the Labour Force Survey (LFS) or the National Population Projections.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind the points made in my 19 October 2007 letter about the LFS sampling frame, definitions, coverage and how the survey results are weighted.

The figures in the table differ from those given previously as follows: the survey results are weighted to Autumn 2007 population estimates instead of 2003 population estimates; estimates are provided for 1998 and 2000 as a result of this re-weighting, whereas these estimates were previously unavailable; the three months ending in September have been supplied, as opposed to the three months ending in June, because this gives the most up to date estimate in 2008.

The estimates from Q3 2006 onwards are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the migrant worker figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of people in employment of working age[1] who were born in United Kingdom or abroad 1997-2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands

Three months ending September each year	*All persons*[2]	*Born in UK*	*Born abroad*[3]
1997	25,893	23,954	1,939
1998	26,197	24,195	2,000
1999	26,542	24,490	2,050
2000	26,865	24,700	2,164
2001	26,980	24,726	2,252
2002	27,137	24,713	2,422
2003	27,368	24,847	2,518
2004	27,597	24,958	2,635
2005	27,900	25,052	2,845
2006	28,000	24,849	3,146
2007	28,146	24,694	3,445
2008[4]	*28,214	*24,580	*3,629

[1] Defined as females aged 16 to 59 and males aged 16 to 64.
[2] Includes people born outside of the UK, and those people who did not state their country of birth.
[3] Does not include people who did not state their country of birth.
[4] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within -/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes
Notes:
It should be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS:
excludes those who have not been resident in the UK
excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
excludes people in most other types of communal establishment (e.g. Hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)
is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for twelve months or more
microdata are grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in Autumn 2007, meaning estimates are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst

(Robert Neill) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1258W, on departmental property, how many home information packs his Department has purchased to date; and how many of these included home condition reports. [245888]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has not purchased any home information packs.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for a period of *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* less than three months, *(c)* between three and six months, *(d)* between six and nine months, *(e)* between nine and 12 months, *(f)* between 12 and 18 months, *(g)* between 18 and 24 months and *(h)* more than 24 months in each month of each of the last four years to date; and if he will make a statement. [246627]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for a period of (a) less than one month, (b) less than three months, (c) between three and six months, (d) between six and nine months, (e) between nine and 12 months, (f) between 12 and 18 months, (g) between 18 and 24 months and (h) more than 24 months in each month of each of the last 4 years to date. (246627)

Table 1, attached, shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in the United Kingdom during each month from December 2005 to November 2008, broken down by the duration of the claim.

Data published for JSA by duration of claim in the Labour Market Statistics First Release are seasonally adjusted. The data provided in Table 1 are not seasonally adjusted because seasonally adjusted series are not available for all of the categories requested. The data will therefore differ to that published.

The latest JSA figures, along with other current and historical labour market indicators for the United Kingdom are available on the Nomis Website, www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim

not seasonally adjusted

	Duration of claim							
	Up to:				*More than:*			
Month of claim	*One month*	*Three months*	*Three months up to six months*	*Six months up to nine months*	*Nine months up to 12 months*	*12 months up to 18 months*	*18 months up to 24 months*	*24 months*
2004								
December	151,973	385,302	184,490	80,615	46,376	55,300	27,959	41,702
2005								
January	155,553	412,126	186,916	89,296	48,363	55,586	29,119	42,410
February	172,446	420,777	194,206	89,316	47,109	53,478	28,081	42,015
March	157,009	412,282	199,358	91,728	47,292	54,538	27,779	41,627
April	147,515	403,113	191,807	97,992	49,321	53,289	27,710	41,230
May	149,838	390,387	197,604	100,634	49,714	53,031	27,626	40,909
June	143,725	381,362	195,421	101,644	51,171	52,985	27,458	40,864
July	161,634	398,279	193,080	97,772	53,786	53,954	26,762	40,587
August	155,518	405,965	189,505	102,127	55,290	53,825	27,154	40,364
September	140,938	395,535	187,196	102,817	56,494	55,202	27,198	40,596
October	151,442	391,942	187,339	100,523	54,360	57,093	26,739	40,571
November	152,073	402,151	186,954	98,129	56,500	58,441	26,639	40,756
December	148,634	411,366	191,974	98,493	57,075	60,312	27,099	40,795
2006								
January	144,388	425,565	219,826	108,340	61,812	63,511	28,995	41,445
February	167,257	438,583	230,197	111,004	62,020	66,558	29,044	41,759
March	155,477	431,161	235,981	114,403	62,234	68,285	29,710	41,738
April	144,502	419,399	223,160	124,602	65,261	70,188	31,523	41,873
May	128,612	390,470	227,028	128,376	67,177	72,389	33,104	42,374
June	140,833	380,186	219,100	128,861	69,282	73,836	33,932	42,726
July	162,245	394,487	214,767	118,979	73,787	76,102	34,822	43,197
August	157,064	411,651	194,874	118,970	73,150	76,041	36,213	43,352
September	158,329	414,532	187,657	115,181	71,473	77,409	37,775	44,109
October	159,842	407,594	185,318	110,653	65,616	77,808	37,636	44,208
November	157,580	409,583	185,966	99,436	64,165	76,901	37,638	43,892
December	149,177	405,867	196,668	97,124	61,864	76,512	37,527	43,513
2007								
January	156,143	423,957	209,682	103,283	64,195	76,220	39,137	44,191
February	177,460	434,316	213,176	105,396	59,040	75,801	38,604	44,367
March	159,057	419,866	211,835	107,034	56,812	74,344	37,922	44,280

Table 1: Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance by duration of claim

not seasonally adjusted

	Duration of claim							
	Up to:		*More than:*					
Month of claim	*One month*	*Three months*	*Three months up to six months*	*Six months up to nine months*	*Nine months up to 12 months*	*12 months up to 18 months*	*18 months up to 24 months*	*24 months*
April	139,644	396,163	196,787	110,366	57,300	71,553	38,447	44,147
May	143,275	372,041	197,558	108,194	57,144	68,302	38,151	44,097
June	146,101	360,734	187,074	101,263	57,057	65,543	36,824	43,564
July	167,009	384,573	174,259	93,695	55,797	64,522	34,621	43,047
August	164,192	401,167	164,763	94,786	54,227	62,249	33,785	42,575
September	158,808	393,553	157,912	89,435	50,995	59,844	32,202	41,667
October	158,985	381,787	159,897	81,672	46,577	58,132	29,976	40,423
November	157,689	381,633	157,013	75,608	45,637	56,698	27,684	38,517
December	150,760	385,795	163,319	75,768	44,696	55,468	26,421	35,957
2008								
January	153,282	404,824	176,780	83,777	45,063	54,729	27,722	34,939
February	176,419	420,867	184,846	84,761	43,253	54,459	25,585	32,123
March	162,949	414,494	184,679	88,350	43,417	53,608	24,873	30,310
April	156,787	411,832	177,509	91,623	45,799	51,636	25,030	29,054
May	157,921	398,391	186,144	94,239	46,267	51,325	24,591	27,911
June	169,672	405,211	183,961	92,666	47,219	51,393	23,808	26,567
July	199,802	447,316	183,424	88,898	47,892	51,969	22,600	25,725
August	203,052	493,178	182,977	95,157	49,394	52,132	23,022	24,985
September	210,379	508,724	186,915	96,020	49,709	52,682	22,973	24,515
October	219,578	522,040	201,074	95,131	48,483	54,348	21,938	24,105
November	246,283	585,629	218,519	95,827	51,545	56,134	21,831	23,497

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if he will make a statement. [244018]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to supporting people with mental health problems. Indeed, health and wellbeing is one of the Cabinet Secretary's corporate priorities. The Cabinet Office is working with other Government Departments to improve wellbeing at work to achieve some of the associated benefits such as a reduction in absenteeism.

Additionally, the Social Exclusion Task Force in the Cabinet Office is working closely with other Government Departments to deliver the socially excluded adults public service agreement (PSA 16). PSA 16 aims increase the proportion of four client groups into accommodation and education, employment or training work. These groups are:

People receiving secondary mental health services

People with moderate to severe learning disabilities

Young people who have experienced care

Offenders under probation supervision

Migration

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Office of National Statistics' most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* EU nationals living in the UK and *(b)* UK nationals living in other EU member states. [246245]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your questions concerning what the Office for National Statistics' most recent estimate is of the number of (a) EU nationals living in the UK and (b) UK nationals living in other EU member states (246245).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects data on nationality on the Annual Population Survey which covers residents of the UK. The ONS does not routinely collect information regarding UK nationals resident outside the UK.

Estimates from the Annual Population Survey for the time period April 2007 March 2008 show that 1.65 million EU nationals were resident in the UK. This estimate has a margin of error of +/- 53 thousand.

Migration: Australia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of Australian nationals who were born in the UK; [244048]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the number of UK nationals who were born in Australia. [244049]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to respond to your questions concerning (a) the number of Australian nationals who were born in the UK (244048) and (b) the number of UK nationals who were born in Australia (244049).

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) collects data on country of birth and nationality on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is a household survey of UK residents. The APS covers only those people who are resident in the UK at the time of the survey. The estimates provided therefore exclude all Australian nationals who were born in the UK but were not living in the UK at the time of the survey and all UK nationals who were resident elsewhere at that time.

Estimates from the APS for the time period April 2007 - March 2008 show that there were:

10 thousand Australian nationals resident in the UK who were born in the UK. This estimate has a margin of error of +/- 4 thousand.

40 thousand resident UK nationals who were born in Australia. This estimate has a margin of error of +/- 8 thousand.

Minimum Wage and Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many married couples without children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are *(a)* local authority tenants and *(b)* private tenants (i) in total and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246632]

(2) how many married couple families without children have the head of the family working up to *(a)* 16 hours a week and *(b)* 30 hours a week on no more than the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246633]

(3) how many married couple families with *(a)* one child and *(b)* two children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246634]

(4) how many lone parents with *(a)* one child and *(b)* two children are working up to (i) 16 hours a week and (ii) 30 hours a week on no more than the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (A) local authority tenants and (B) private tenants (1) in total and (2) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [246637]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions.

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many married couples without children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (a) local authority tenants and (b) private tenants (i) in total and (ii) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246632)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many married couple families without children have the head of the family working up to (a) 16 hours a week and (b) 30 hours a week on no more than the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246633)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many married couple families with (a) one child and (b) two children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246634)

To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many lone parents with (a) one child and (b) two children are working up to (i) 16 hours a week and (ii) 30 hours a week on no more than the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (A) local authority tenants and (B) private tenants (1) in total and (2) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246637)

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) are taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. This system does not collect the family characteristics of claimants nor does it collect information on whether the family is in private or local authority rented accommodation. It is therefore not possible to use this source to provide estimates for the groups requested. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects information on individuals claiming JSA but reliable estimates for the groups requested are not available.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principal source of statistics of the earnings of low paid employees. However, the ASHE does not collect information about family characteristics therefore can not provide estimates of the number of families on the national minimum wage.

The LFS can provide estimates of the characteristics of low paid workers but reliable estimates of the number of families on the minimum wage by housing tenure are not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many single people aged 25 or over are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are *(a)* local authority tenants and *(b)* private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246813]

(2) how many single people aged 25 or over are working an average of *(a)* 16 hours a week and *(b)* 30 hours a week on the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246814]

(3) how many married couple families with *(a)* one child and *(b)* two children have the head of the family working (i) 16 hours a week and (ii) 30 hours a week on no more than the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (A) local authority tenants and (B) private tenants (1) in total and (2) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [246635]

(4) how many lone parents with *(a)* one child and *(b)* two children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [246636]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions.

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many married couple families with (a) one child and (b) two children have the head of the family working (i) 16 hours a week and (ii) 30 hours a week on the national minimum wage, broken

down by those that are (A) local authority tenants and (B) private tenants (1) in total and (2) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246635)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many lone parents with (a) one child and (b) two children are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246636)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many single people aged 25 or over are unemployed and in receipt of jobseeker's allowance and are (a) local authority tenants and (b) private tenants (A) in total and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246813)

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many single people aged 25 or over are working an average of (a) 16 hours a week and (b) 30 hours a week on the national minimum wage, broken down by those that are (i) local authority tenants and (ii) private tenants in total and broken down by the smallest geographical are for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. (246814)

The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. This system does not collect the family characteristics of claimants nor does it collect information on whether the family is in private or local authority rented accommodation. It is therefore not possible to use this source to provide estimates for the groups requested. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) collects information on individuals claiming JSA but reliable estimates for the groups requested are not available.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the principle source of statistics of the earnings of low paid employees. However, the ASHE does not collect information about family characteristics and therefore can not provide estimates of the number of families on the national minimum wage.

The LFS can provide estimates of the characteristics of low paid workers but reliable estimates of the number of families on the minimum wage by housing tenure are not available.

Productivity

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the productivity level per worker was in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [244215]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what productivity level per worker was in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. (244215)

The Office for National Statistics does not produce output per worker estimates at a regional level. Output per worker productivity estimates are only available at the UK level with base year 2003=100. Annual productivity statistics at Government Office Region are available for GVA per hour, GVA per job and GVA per head. These are produced with the base being UK=100.

Table 1 attached provides estimates of the index value with UK=100 of GVA per filled job at Government Office Region level for 2006.

Table 1

Region	*GVA per filled job*
United Kingdom	100.0
North East	91.6
North West	90.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	89.1
East Midlands	97.1
West Midlands	91.1
East	97.2
London	129.3
South East	107.1
South West	94.1
England	101.7
Wales	86.2
Scotland	94.9
Northern Ireland	87.1

Public Consultation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance he has issued to Departments on the minimum length of consultations outside an election period; and if he will make a statement. [243557]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Department is responsible for the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation. This Code sets out how central Government Departments should run their formal, written consultation exercises. Criterion 2 of the Code states that:

"Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible".

Unemployed

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what proportion of people aged over 50 years old were unemployed in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; [244313]

(2) how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 were unemployed in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [244314]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 17 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many and what proportion of people aged over 50 years old were unemployed in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. (244313); and how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 were unemployed in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. (244314)

The requested information is shown in the attached table. The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently the estimates from Q3 2006 are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Level and proportion of people aged 16-24, and aged 50 and over, who are unemployed Quarter 31997 to 2006; all calendar quarters from quarter 4 2006 to quarter 3 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

		16-24		50+	
		Level	Proportion%	Level	Proportion%
1997	Q3	724	12	321	2
1998	Q3	698	11	268	1
1999	Q3	651	10	266	1
2000	Q3	631	10	245	1
2001	Q3	628	10	222	1
2002	Q3	649	10	247	1
2003	Q3	669	10	218	1
2004	Q3	681	10	200	1
2005	Q3	701	10	214	1
2006	Q3	797	11	246	1
2006	Q4	676	9	231	1
2007	Q1	669	9	253	1
2007	Q2	675	9	245	1
2007	Q3	806	11	241	1
2007	Q4	663	9	230	1
2008	Q1	642	9	238	1
2008	Q2	676	9	234	1
2008	Q3[1]	*864	12	**266	1

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness

* 0 = CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV = 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Unemployed: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many unemployed persons in Essex were previously employed in the *(a)* financial services, *(b)* hospitality and *(c)* construction sectors. [243811]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 16 December 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many unemployed persons in Essex were previously employed in the (a) financial services, (b) hospitality industry and (c) construction sectors. (243811)

Reliable estimates at this level of detail are not available.

JUSTICE

Bronzefield Prison

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women are being held at Bronzefield Prison, Ashford, Middlesex; and how many of them are *(a)* on remand, *(b)* serving sentences of less than six months, *(c)* serving sentences of between six and 12 months, *(d)* serving sentences of between 12 months and five years, *(e)* serving time-limited sentences of more than five years, *(f)* serving life sentences and *(g)* foreign nationals. [245674]

Mr. Hanson: In response to part *(a)* of the question, there were 201 female prisoners on remand at Bronzefield on 30 September 2008. The information in response to parts *(b)* to *(f)* can be found in the following table, which gives figures for the numbers of female prisoners at Bronzefield Prison at the end of September 2008:

	Determinate sentences					
	Less than or equal to 6 months sentence	*Greater than 6 months and less than 12 months*	*12 months and up to and including 5 years*	*Over 5 years*	*Indeterminate*	*Total*
Sentenced population	74	28	83	10	6	201

In response to *(g)*, there were 103 foreign national female prisoners at Bronzefield Prison at the end of September 2008. The information on the numbers of foreign national prisoners in Bronzefield can be found at Table 4 of the September issue at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Community Orders: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were issued in *(a)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in each of the last five years. [246076]

Mr. Hanson: The available data for community sentences, including community orders made under the Criminal Justice Act 2003, is contained in the following table.

Data held by the Ministry of Justice is available by Police Force Area (PFA) and the table shows the figures for Greater Manchester PFA, and the North West (comprising Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire PFAs). Those data are not made available for smaller areas because detailed checks on sentencing data are not carried out at court level.

Number of persons sentenced to community sentences including community orders[1] in Greater Manchester Police Force Area and North West Region[2] 2003-07

	Greater Manchester			North West Region		
	Total community sentences	*Of which*	*Community orders*	*Total community sentences*	*Of which*	*Community orders*
2003	12,624		—	30,701		—
2004	14,351		—	33,820		—
2005	14,917		3,858	34,544		8,846

Number of persons sentenced to community sentences including community orders[1] in Greater Manchester Police Force Area and North West Region[2] 2003-07

	Greater Manchester			North West Region		
	Total community sentences	Of which	Community orders	Total community sentences	Of which	Community orders
2006	14,209		9,044	32,997		20,164
2007	14,103		9,629	35,168		23,476

[1] Community orders are available for adults only and for offences committed on or after 04/042005.
[2] The North West Region comprises Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Police Force Areas.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Community Sentences

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department intends to consult on the merits of having people undertaking community service wearing high-visibility jackets. [246166]

Mr. Hanson: The use of distinctive clothing by offenders sentenced to community payback was announced on 1 December. This announcement followed a period of consultation with probation boards, probation trusts and unions. Implementation of this policy by probation areas is being monitored and at this stage no further consultation is planned.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether he plans to record incidents of violence or threats made against people on unpaid work projects following the implementation of the visible vests policy; [246743]

(2) how many reported incidents of violence there were against people undertaking unpaid work projects in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [246744]

Mr. Hanson: All incidents and accidents which take place in probation areas are monitored and are identifiable by the level of severity of the accident or incident. It is not currently possible to specifically identify incidents of violence against offenders undertaking unpaid work. Plans to separately monitor incidents relating to unpaid work projects are being developed.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that individuals placed on unpaid work who are known to be involved in gangs are protected from members of rival gangs. [246746]

Mr. Hanson: It is the responsibility of probation areas to ensure the safety of offenders who are undertaking unpaid work, the staff responsible for supervising their work and members of the public. All offenders are subject to risk assessment before being placed. The operation of unpaid work must be responsive to local concerns and probation areas are best placed to identify these concerns. For example London and West Midlands Probation Areas operate unpaid work in areas in which gangs operate. Both areas have established arrangements with the police and other agencies to determine if offenders known to be involved in gangs are likely to be at risk if required to work in certain localities. If concerns are identified, the offender would undertake work at an alternate location.

Sentences: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been sentenced to custody in the 10 knife action programme areas for knife-related crimes; [246748]

(2) how many people have been given community supervision orders in the 10 knife action programme areas for knife-related crimes. [246749]

Mr. Straw: Finalised data for sentencing for knife and offensive weapon possession in the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) areas in 2008 will not be available until 'Sentencing Statistics 2008' is published in November 2009. However, as part of TKAP, provisional data from management information systems are being gathered. These data will be subject to continual revision. The provisional figures available from the Police National Computer indicate that between June and October 2008 in the TKAP areas, 2,036 community penalties, 1,356 immediate custodial sentences and 669 suspended sentence orders were given for offences relating to the possession of a knife or offensive weapon in a public place or on school premises. These figures include adult and juvenile offenders.

The figures quoted in this answer have been taken from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Crime: Treason

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward amendments to legislation governing offences of treason so that such offences are defined as crimes against the state. [244672]

Maria Eagle: We have no plans at present to reform this area of law. However the Law Commission identified this area as one they might tackle under their simplification of criminal law project in their 10th programme of work (Law Com 311 HC 605).

Data Protection: Internet

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the written ministerial statement of 4 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 9-11WS, on the Justice and Home Affairs Council, what assurance the Government sought that member states operating the e-justice programme will have in place sufficiently high data security standards to meet UK standards; what assessment his Department has made of the potential for increased fraud as a result of implementation of the e-justice programme; and if he will make further representations on the matter at EU level. [244757]

Mr. Straw: Work on e-Justice is at an early stage and has the objective to improve access to justice for citizens and cooperation between the authorities in each member state. Projects so far have concentrated on the creation of a portal which will allow access through this one site

to databases and registers already available to the public. Such databases are already subject to national and European data protection legislation. For future projects, transfers of data to and from the UK must comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

As e-Justice work is still at an early stage of development there have been no specific assessments of the potential for increased fraud but security standards and the associated considerations of identification, authentication and authorisation to use systems are the subject of ongoing discussion. We believe that it is essential that such work must provide sufficient safeguards to minimise the risk of fraud or unauthorised access to data. These are matters which we will continue to press at both official level and at relevant Justice and Home Affairs Councils.

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246669]

Mr. Straw: My predecessors, officials and I have undertaken a number of flights over the last five years, the details of which are not possible to provide within the disproportionate cost limit. The Ministry of Justice has no historic record of flights undertaken by the Secretary of State or Ministry of Justice officials. Since April 2007 a record of flights I and my predecessor Lord Falconer have undertaken and the number of officials accompanying us on these flights has been kept by my office. This record indicates that from April 2007 to April 2008 my predecessor undertook one return international flight with two accompanying officials; I undertook one domestic flight with two accompanying officials and three return international flights with four accompanying officials on each journey. Between May 2008 to present I have undertaken one domestic flight with one accompanying official; one return international flight with another Minister and three accompanying officials; one return international flight with three accompanying officials and one multi-stop international visit involving five flights, with four accompanying officials. Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Civil Service Management Code' respectively.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244710]

Mr. Straw: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to correspondence from Members and Peers. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report* column 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence Departments should abide by the guidance as set out in 'Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies' which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005 and may be read at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety and ethics/handling_members_correspondence.aspx.

As at 22 December (the nearest date for which I have records), 81 letters from MPs were outstanding and had not received a response within target.

In respect of emails and correspondence from the public, it is not possible to provide the information within the £750 disproportionate cost limit.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of correspondence from hon. and right hon. Members he *(a)* personally answered, *(b)* passed to ministerial colleagues and *(c)* asked officials to answer in the last 12 months. [244910]

Mr. Straw: During 2008 I received 4,113 letters from hon. and right hon. Members that raised issues that fell within my Department's remit. I responded to 946 (23 per cent.) of those letters and, except for a small number answered by officials, my ministerial colleagues responded to the remainder.

In addition, I received 649 letters in 2008 that raised issues outside my Department's remit. These were transferred to the relevant Department for answer.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245348]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice and its agencies, has one contract for an online training facility which is provided from the United States of America. The application holds the names and payroll references for approximately 4,000 staff who have completed an e-learning package. The company is a member of the United States Safe Harbor agreement, which ensures a similar level of data protection to that required by UK data protection law. All data transfers are required to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The contract expires in April 2009. Options for the future are being considered with a view to ensuring the data will be stored in the UK after that date.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245367]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice's senior information risk owner (SIRO) is the Director General of the Democracy, Constitution and Law Group who took over this responsibility in spring 2008, in advance of the Data Handling Review's publication. Prior to her taking over the role, the Ministry of Justice's SIRO was the Director General of Strategy.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244600]

Mr. Wills: The Government's delivery plan for "Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate" update published 18 December 2008 outlines what actions the Ministry of Justice is taking to reduce its energy waste.

Progress will be made through behavioural change: encouraging staff to switch off lights and electrical and electronic equipment when not needed; and as a result of energy audits looking at increasing energy efficiency of the existing estate through initiatives such as: upgrading lighting, installing voltage optimisation kit, optimising time settings for boiler and chiller systems.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were made to his Department since 2005; how many requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by his Department in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [244831]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has published annual reports containing statistical information on Freedom of Information requests received by monitored bodies (including central Government Departments) in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Statistics on requests received in the first three quarters of 2008 have also been published.

These reports include statistics on the number of non-routine requests received by this Department and the initial outcomes of these requests. They also contain the number of complaints to the Information Commissioner of which we have been notified, and the outcomes of these complaints.

The reports can be found at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

In addition, copies of each report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Providing copies of material subsequently provided in each case, and identifying any costs relating to consultants or law firms incurred in handling them would incur disproportionate cost. However, in most cases under investigation, Ministry of Justice officials use departmental lawyers or the Central Clearing House, also based here, for specialist advice where necessary. As such, no external cost is incurred.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241241]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice has offered various forms of ministerial hospitality over the last four years, the cost of which is not possible to provide within the disproportionate cost limit. Since April 2007 a record of the cost of receptions and formal dinners hosted by me as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has been kept by my office. This record indicates that in the financial year 2007-08 spending in these matters was £42,452. The total spending to date in 2008-09 financial year is £68,331. The bulk of this spending is for the Lord Chancellor's Breakfast, hosted for the judiciary and foreign dignitaries on the occasion of the Opening of the Legal Year. All spending on official entertainment is made in accordance with the principles set out in 'Managing Public Money'.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244388]

Mr. Wills: All staff employed directly by the core Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service are subject to the same arrangements for pay irrespective of whether they are temporary (i.e. fixed term) employees or permanent staff.

Where they exist, differences in hourly pay rates for individuals within the same grade are for reasons other than whether the member of staff is fixed term or permanent. Such differences may be the position within the pay band or location. Following machinery of Government changes, there are a small number of staff within the Ministry employed on their former employers' terms and conditions and who opted to retain their legacy pay arrangements. These staff therefore have an hourly salaries determined by those legacy terms.

Hourly rates paid to the staff engaged through temporary Staffing Agencies are determined between the Agency and the individual. When Parliament has decided the implementation date of the Agency Workers Directive, guidance on the terms will be reviewed with suppliers.

Disclosure of Information: Identity Cards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the status is of the Information Tribunal's consideration of the Appeal by the Office of Government Commerce against the decision notices issued by the Information Commissioner on the disclosure of gateway review documents relating to the Home Office's Identity Cards Programme. [243034]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Information Tribunal first made a decision on this appeal in May 2007, upholding the decision notices of the Information Commissioner requiring the disclosure of the OGC gateway review documents relating to the Home Office's Identity Cards Programme.

In March 2008, this decision was quashed by a High Court ruling, the judge ordering that the appeal should return to a remitted, newly constituted Information Tribunal.

The remitted tribunal sat between the 29 to the 31 October 2008 and heard closing arguments on 10 December 2008, with further written submissions invited from both parties, to be submitted by the 19 December 2008.

The tribunal has indicated that it is likely to release a decision in late January or early February 2009.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of keeping a person in residential drug rehabilitation for *(a)* one week and *(b)* one year in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [243285]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) supports an online directory of residential drug and alcohol treatment services, which is available via the NTA website at:

http://www.nta.nhs.uk/about_treatment/treatment_directories/residential/resdirectory_f.aspx

This directory contains a range of information, including cost, self-reported by approximately 75 per cent. of residential rehabilitation services in England and Wales, and as such it does not represent a comprehensive or necessarily robust picture. Of the providers in the directory, the average (median) cost, as at the end of November 2008, of a week in a residential rehabilitation service is around £500. A residential programme typically runs for three to six months. Information about the cost of residential drug rehabilitation programmes which last for a year is not separately identified.

Elections: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what timetable has been set for the completion of the cost-benefit assessment of e-counting in the 2008 London elections; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessment once it is completed. [245976]

Mr. Wills: London Elects, as the body responsible for running the London Mayoral and Assembly elections, is conducting a cost-benefit analysis of e-counting in the 2008 London elections. The Ministry of Justice is not involved. I will nevertheless ask London Elects if they will write to the hon. Member with details.

Electoral Commission: Powers of Entry

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has consulted the Electoral Commission on whether the proposed new powers of entry for the Electoral Commission in the Political Parties and Elections Bill will potentially allow entry into the homes of *(a)* trades union staff and *(b)* trades union members who donate to a political party through paying a political levy, in trades unions that affiliate to a political party; and if he will make a statement. [246726]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill currently provides for two specific, constrained, powers of entry. The provisions were discussed with the Electoral Commission during their development.

The first is a restatement of the existing power under section 146(3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, which allows the Commission to enter premises and take copies of information relating to income and expenditure from a registered political party, a recognised third party and a permitted participant in a referendum. This power can be exercised by the Commission for the purposes of carrying out its functions but does not authorise the use of force to enter premises. However, it is a criminal offence to intentionally obstruct the Commission from entering premises.

This power is replicated in clause 1(5) of schedule 19A (to be inserted into the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 by schedule 1 to the Bill). It is, however, extended in its scope to encompass candidates (other than candidates in Scottish local government elections), election agents, regulated donees (including MPs) and regulated participants.

In addition, the Political Parties and Elections Bill seeks to provide new powers for use by the Commission when it undertakes an investigation in circumstances where it has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a breach of PPERA has taken place: specifically, the Bill provides the Commission with new powers to request information, to put questions and to apply for a warrant to enable it to enter premises when carrying out an investigation into a suspected offence or other contravention of the 2000 Act; each of these new powers is subject to a series of safeguards. These powers and the associated safeguards are set out in schedule 1 of the Bill, which proposes to insert a new schedule 19A into the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

In relation to the new power to enter premises, under paragraph 3 of schedule 19A the Commission will need to apply for a warrant: there is no automatic right of entry. For a warrant to be issued, the Commission must demonstrate on oath to a justice of the peace that it has reasonable grounds for believing that an offence has been committed (or other contravention of PPERA has occurred). The Commission must also satisfy a justice of the peace that documents are on any premises that were withheld following an earlier request made under paragraph 2(2) of the schedule or that are otherwise relevant to the investigation. When entering the premises that a warrant authorises entry into, any Commission staff must be accompanied at all times by a constable.

A warrant issued under paragraph 3 is capable of applying to any person or organisation that the tests in the paragraph above are met. On that basis it is capable of applying to trade unions and their members in the same way that it may apply to any other person or organisation.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to table an amendment to the Political Parties and Elections Bill to restrict the Electoral Commission's powers of entry into regulated donees in respect of *(a)* the offices of hon. Members within Parliament, *(b)* the offices of noble Lords within Parliament and *(c)* the parliamentary offices located at 4 Millbank. [246728]

Mr. Wills: As I indicated at Committee stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, we have heard the force of opinion in the House on the issue of the Commission's powers and will consider what can be done to address it.

We are considering how best to do so while delivering the objective of empowering the Commission to investigate more effectively, together with ensuring that its powers are subject to appropriate safeguards.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his proposed definition is of reasonable cause for a magistrate to give permission for the Electoral Commission to use its new suggested powers of entry. [246738]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill proposes that the Electoral Commission may apply to a justice of the peace for a search warrant to authorise the entry of premises.

In order to issue a warrant a justice of the peace must be satisfied, having had regard to information given on oath by the Commission, that there are reasonable grounds for believing that an offence or other breach of PPERA has been committed or has taken place. In addition the justice of the peace must also be satisfied that there are on the premises for which the warrant was sought documents that that have previously been required to be produced or which are otherwise relevant to the Commission's investigation. Further detail about the proposed power of entry and search by warrant is set out in paragraph 3 of schedule 1. It would ultimately be for a court, taking all relevant factors into consideration, to decide whether the above requirements were met and whether issuing a warrant was appropriate as a result.

Electoral Register: Databases

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what effect the planned reductions in his Department's spending will have on *(a)* progress on the proposed CORE electoral database and *(b)* numbers of staff in his Department's electoral law and regulation division. [246727]

Mr. Wills: The Co-ordinated Online Record of Electors (CORE) project is funded from a ring fenced capital allocation. Funds are released for expenditure subject to an annual bidding process. We do not anticipate that this position will change as a result of the Ministry of Justice's Performance and Efficiency Programme.

Staffing requirements in Elections and Democracy Division are reviewed based on its work load and the skills required and this will continue.

Freedom of Information

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of time is for *(a)* the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and *(b)* the ICO Freedom of Information Operation Team 5—Local Government (South) to allocate a freedom of information case to a caseworker. [244169]

Mr. Wills: Figures available relate to Freedom of Information cases closed by the ICO between April 2007 and September 2008.

Of the cases closed by the ICO between April 2007 and March 2008, the average number of days from receipt by the ICO to allocation to a case officer was 69. Between April and September 2008, the average time taken for allocation following receipt by the ICO was 64 days.

Of the cases closed by FOI Operation Team 5—Local Government (South) between April 2007 and March 2008, the average number of days from receipt by Team 5 to allocation to a complaints officer was 117. Between April and September 2008, the average time taken for allocation following receipt by Team 5 was 130 days.

This information has been provided by the ICO.

HM Courts Service: Finance

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 865W, on HM Courts Service: finance, upon what assumptions on changes to the volume of cases the estimate of additional income was based; and what assessment he has made of the accuracy of such assumptions. [241156]

Mr. Straw: The estimation of the additional income of £28 million from family court fees was calculated by taking prior year volumes of new care cases issued, and adjusting that volume to take into account an initial drop as a result of the introduction of the new Public Law Outline in April 2008. In addition, the estimation also included volumes from existing cases that had been issued prior to the introduction of the new fee charge, and that would incur the new fee charges after 1 May 2008.

The assessment of the accuracy of the assumptions was based on an understanding of the low volatility and identifiable trend of those application volumes in recent years.

Human Trafficking: Refuges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what referral criteria are put in place for the Poppy Project; and whether the Government has recently considered amending such criteria. [243312]

Maria Eagle: To qualify for safe accommodation under the Government-funded Poppy project individuals must be over 18 years old, trafficked into the United Kingdom and sexually exploited in England and Wales. Priority for accommodation is given to individuals that have experienced exploitation in the immediate three months prior to referral. This year we also piloted support provisions for victims of trafficking for forced labour and domestic servitude.

We ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings on 17 December 2008. This will require us to have minimum levels of support for all identified victims of human trafficking by spring 2009. We are currently tendering for a national support model for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, as they share similar high-level support needs. We are also working with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to develop support services for victims trafficked into forced labour.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services his Department provides to people who are identified as having been trafficked. [241134]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice and the Home Office jointly funds the Poppy project to provide specialist, high-level support to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Victims are provided with a 30 day reflection period, accommodation, advocacy support, access to counselling, interpretative services, access to immigration legal advice, resettlement support and a range of other services to meet their individual needs. The Poppy project also has outreach team. This year the Government piloted support services for victims trafficked into domestic servitude and forced labour.

We ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings on 17 December 2008 and will come into force in April 2009. This will see the introduction of a 45-day minimum reflection period and one-year temporary residence permits, both of which will be extendable in certain circumstances. We will also introduce a national support service model with an increased number of supported accommodation places.

Monarchy: Succession

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend those provisions of the Act of Settlement relating to the Royal Succession; and what recent representations he has received on the matter. [244129]

Mr. Straw: The Government have always stood firmly against discrimination in all its forms, including against Roman Catholics, and we will continue to do so. To bring about changes to the law on succession would be a complex undertaking involving amendment or repeal of a number of items of related legislation, as well as requiring the consent of legislatures of member nations of the Commonwealth. We are examining this complex area although there are no immediate plans to legislate.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish *(a)* the Offender Management Strategy 2008 and *(b)* the evidence base on which it draws. [246930]

Mr. Hanson: The publication 'Punishment and reform: our approach to managing offenders' was published on 17 December 2008 and is available on the Ministry of Justice website and a copy will be placed in the Libraries of the House. It explains how the principles of punishment and reform underpin our approach to offender management.

A strategic review of offender management took place in 2007. A summary report was made available to probation services in January 2008. I am arranging for a copy of the summary to be placed in the Library of both Houses. The purpose of the Offender Management Strategic Review was to set the direction for the implementation of future phases of offender management within the National Offender Management Service. The review drew on an extensive programme of consultation with practitioners and other interested parties including the findings from Offender Management Inspection reports by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation which are public documents.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what staff resources the National Offender Management Service proposes to allocate to directors of offender management; [246138]

(2) what salary the National Offender Management Service proposes to pay its directors of offender management; [246139]

(3) what the *(a)* job description and *(b)* person specification for the post of director of offender management is; [246140]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost savings from the change from regional offender managers to directors of offender management in the National Offender Management Service. [246141]

Mr. Hanson: Directors of Offender Management will be the single point of accountability in English regions and in Wales. They will lead the total system incorporating probation services, public sector prisons, contracted prisons and partnerships for the provision of offender management. Director appointments will be finalised early in 2009 and NOMS management are currently designing the regional structures and finalising staff numbers. Final staff numbers will be available in March 2009.

The director of offender management role has been evaluated, in all cases, to be senior civil servant (SCS) pay band 2. The salaries paid will be commensurate with this pay band and are expected to be in the region of £80,000 to £120,000. The exact salaries of the directors will be different because the roles vary in scale and this will be recognised accordingly.

It is expected that the savings generated from the regional restructuring in the National Offender Management Service, which includes the creation and appointment of directors of Offender Management will be in the order of £5 million to £10 million.

The job description and person specification have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Open Prisons: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to his answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 300-1W, on open prisons: prisoner escapes, what plans he has to reduce the number of absconds from open prisons. [245207]

Mr. Hanson: Levels of abscond have fallen over the last decade and are still declining. They are now 54 per cent. lower than in 1996-97. Prisoners undergo a risk assessment process before been considered for open conditions and those considered to be at risk of absconding are not allocated to the open estate. Open prisons take a variety of actions to reduce absconding including effective screening of prisoners when they arrive at the prison coupled with intelligence work within the prison to identify potential absconders and send them back to

closed conditions. Work is also being undertaken with the police and CPS to ensure that wherever possible absconders are prosecuted as a deterrent to others. Despite excellent progress in this area we are far from complacent and in the coming year the National Offender Management Service will be building on these achievements to ensure that the downward trend in absconds continues and that best practice is spread across all areas of the country.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 300-01W, on open prisons: prisoner escapes, what each of the 125 offences committed by prisoners while unlawfully at large in each of the last 24 months was. [246289]

Mr. Hanson: Data in the following table show the main categories of further offences that prisoners have been charged with committing while unlawfully at large from open prisons in England and Wales between December 2006 and November 2008.

Further offences with which prisoners were charged while unlawfully at large from open prisons during the period 1 December 2006 to 30 November 2008

Offence type	*Total recorded*
Assault	8
Breach of ASBO	1
Burglary	16
Criminal damage	3
Other driving-related offence	1
Driving whilst disqualified	1
Drug offence	9
Drunk and disorderly	1
Firearm	3
Fraud	1
Murder	1
Obstruct police	1
Other (offence not specified)	21
Possession of weapon	1
Robbery	11
Shoplifting	3
Theft	23
Theft of vehicle	1
Vehicle crime	18
Wounding	1
Total	125

Notes:
1. Data shown are for charges brought against prisoners. Data are not available on outcome following charging.
2. The prisoner who committed the murder then committed suicide and so was not charged.
3. These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Figures on absconds and a range of other prison performance statistics are also available at:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/abouttheservice/prisonperformance/performancestatistics/

Political Parties and Elections Bill

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he intends that the Political Parties and Elections Bill will be enacted before the June 2009 European and local elections. [246732]

Mr. Wills: The timing of Royal Assent of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, which the Justice Secretary introduced to this House on 17 July, and the commencement of its provisions will depend on its progress through Parliament. However, as I said in response to the question of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1684-85W) and during the Committee Stage of the Political Parties and Elections Bill on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 281, even if the Bill receives Royal Assent before the European Parliamentary elections on 4 June 2009, we do not plan to commence the provisions in clause 16 of the Bill before that date.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on the Political Parties and Elections Bill 2007-08, in what ways the proposed new trigger rules, prior to the publication of guidance, will remedy the difficulties with the old trigger rules referred to *(a)* in the case of Fiona Jones and R v. Desmond Whicher [1999] EWCA Crim 1094 and *(b)* the Fifth Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life; and if he will make a statement. [246733]

Mr. Wills: Clause 11 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill would reintroduce the long-standing principle which existed prior to the passage of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 that all spending used by candidates for the purposes of their election campaign should count towards the candidate spending limit (often referred to as "triggering").

The legislation defining candidate spending has been updated since the previous system of triggering was in place and clause 11 does not propose a return to the precise wording that existed prior to 2000. Section 76 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 ("the 1983 Act") described candidate expenses as those "on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of the election". This wording was removed from section 76 of the 1983 Act by section 132 of the 2000 Act. Section 27 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") inserted new section 90ZA into the 1983 Act, which clarifies that "election expenses" in relation to a candidate at an election means any expenses incurred at any time in respect of any matter specified in Part 1 of Schedule 4A of the 1983 Act (also inserted by section 27 of the 2006 Act) which is used for the purposes of the candidate's election after the date when he becomes a candidate at the election. A person is defined as a 'candidate' according to section 118A of the 1983 Act.

Clause 11 of the Bill would not restore the previous wording of the 1983 Act. Rather it amends section 90ZA such that the definition of election expenses is capable of including those expenses incurred and used by a person before that person formally becomes a 'candidate' by virtue of section 118 A.

The Fifth Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Neill Report), published in 1998, identified problems with the legislation on candidate expenditure as it stood at the time. The key problems which the Neill Report identified were around which items of expenditure should count towards election expenses and which should not; and when a constituency campaign is to be deemed to have begun. These problems were identified again in the judgement of the England and Wales Court of

Appeal (Criminal Division) in the case of Fiona Jones Desmond Whicher, R v. [1999], which quoted from the Neill Report. The then Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, noted that there was no simple and decisive test to determine whether an expense was or was not to be regarded as en election expense within the meaning of the Act at the time.

In the case of which items should count towards election expenses, Neill specifically criticised Schedule 3 of the 1983 Act. That Schedule provided a form of return for candidates to complete their declaration as to election expenses. As Neill noted, however, the form largely reproduced the equivalent Schedule in the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Act of 1883 and was therefore considerably out of date. Neill recommended that the Schedule should be revised such that it contained a full and up to date list of items of expenditure (recommendation 46). The 2000 Act accordingly repealed Schedule 3 of the 1983 Act. The 2006 Act inserted new Schedule 4A into the 1983 Act. This Schedule lists in detail the matters which are, and are not, to be regarded as election expenses, providing far greater clarity for candidates than under the previous system of triggering that existed before 2000.

In the case of determining when a constituency campaign is deemed to have begun, Neill noted the considerable doubt on this point for candidates and political parties, as the 1983 Act made no attempt to define the period of the election or the election campaign. However, Neill concluded "despite the difficulties, it is possible for parties, nationally as well as locally, to distinguish in most situations between election and non-election spending".

Neill therefore recommended that the precedent established by the 1983 Act should continue to be followed, and that expenditure limits should continue to be set in terms of the purpose for which expenditure is incurred rather than in terms of any specified time period (recommendation 51). It is this principle, specifically endorsed by the Neill Report, which clause 11 of the Bill seeks to restore with regard to the candidate spending limit.

As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor said during the first evidence session of the Public Bill Committee, the trigger arrangements are not "perfect, but they did act as a dampener". The Government believe that the changes made to the legislation since the passage of the 2000 Act are significant steps in addressing the points made in the Neill Report and the Fiona Jones judgement relating to determining the purpose of expenditure.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on the Political Parties and Elections Bill 2007-08, if he will issue guidance on whether the proof of two elements *(a)* that the expenditure should be closely related to the machinery of an election and *(b)* that the expenses should be primarily or principally incurred for the promotion of the interests of the candidate will again apply in defining local candidate expenditure under the reintroduced trigger rules. [246734]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has no plans to issue guidance on these points. Clause 12 of the Bill provides that the Electoral Commission may issue guidance, supplementing the definition in section 90ZA(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as to the case or circumstances in which expenses are, or are not, to be regarded as incurred for the purposes of a candidate's election.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on political parties: finance, what assumptions were made in preparing the impact assessments for the Bill of the consequences of the Electoral Commission guidance on trigger rules being issued after the rules have been commenced at Royal Assent. [246731]

Mr. Wills: Clause 12 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill amends an existing power granted to the Electoral Commission to issue a code of practice giving guidance on the list of regulated matters for candidate spending (set out in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006). Clause 12 of the Bill provides that the Commission may also include in any code of practice guidance, supplementing the definition in section 90ZA(3) of the 1983 Act, on when expenditure will be regarded as for election purposes.

Clause 11 of the Bill would alter the regulation of candidate expenditure such that all expenditure used for the purposes of an individual's election will be regulated by the candidate spending limit, regardless of when that expenditure is incurred.

In preparing the impact assessment for clause 11, no assumption was made about the length of time between the commencement of clause 11 of the Bill and the production of a code, of practice or other guidance by the Electoral Commission.

As stated in the answer provided on 15 September, a code of practice is not a prerequisite to clause 11 of the Bill coming into force. Nevertheless, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor clearly stated during the first public evidence session of the Bill's Committee stages on 4 November, it is our intention that guidance from the Commission should be in place before the commencement of clause 11.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to raise the de minimis level for recording donations to political parties from £200 to reflect inflation since the limit was first introduced. [246736]

Mr. Wills: As I said during Committee stage debates on the Bill, the Government are keen to secure broad consensus to the package of reforms in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. With that in mind, the Government will consider whether it is appropriate to raise the £200 threshold for recording donations contained in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). We are open to representations on this point.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 752W, on political parties: finance, if he will make it his policy for statutory guidance which is approved by the Secretary of State and which originates from government-sponsored legislation to be compliant with the Government's Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation, with specific reference to the time for consultation on and compliance with regulation. [246737]

Mr. Wills: We have no current plans to do so.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2291-2W, on political parties: finance, whether hon. Members who are deemed to have breached the rules of the Communications Allowance by the House, by virtue of promoting themselves in a partisan manner, will be deemed to have triggered their local candidates' election expenses under the proposed new trigger rules. [246742]

Mr. Wills: As I wrote in a letter sent to Members of Public Bill Committee on the Political Parties and Elections Bill on 19 November 2008, a copy of which I have placed in the Library of the House, depending on the circumstances of the case, and depending on the nature of the expenditure that led to a complaint, if an MP was found guilty of abusing the Communications Allowance then the follow-on effect might well be that the expenditure would have triggered that MP's candidate expenditure limit. That would be the case where the Communications Allowance is used to fund expenditure on a matter listed in schedule 4A for the purposes of promoting his or her election as a candidate at a general election. However, being found guilty of breaching the rules regarding use of the allowance would not automatically lead to a triggering of an MP's election expenses.

Prison Sentences

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners currently serving prison sentences have served beyond their original or adjusted tariff. [244197]

Mr. Hanson: On 15 December 2008 there were 3,900 indeterminate sentenced prisoners in custody recorded as being beyond their original or adjusted tariff.

This figure is taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

It remains for the Parole Board to determine whether the risk presented by any lifer or IPP offender is such that it may be safely managed in the community.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have escaped from police, Prison Service or contracted agents' custody whilst in transit or otherwise whilst under escort outside the secure custodial estate in each of the last 10 years. [245155]

Mr. Hanson: Levels of escapes are currently at their lowest levels since central recording of this data began in 1995. Data in the following table show the number of prisoners who have escaped from escort between April 1998 and March 2008 broken down by *(a)* Prison Service escorts *(b)* contractor escorts. Data on numbers of escapes from police escorts is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by contacting every police force in the country.

Number of Prisoners who have escaped from escort

	HMPS Escorts	Contractor Escorts[1]	Total
1998-99	7	55	62
1999-2000	8	59	67
2000-01	8	58	66
2001-02	11	40	51
2002-03	12	33	45
2003-04	6	33	39
2004-05	8	28	36
2005-06	8	17	25
2006-07	6	19	25
2007-08	2	16	18

[1]. Data on escapes from contractor escorts includes escorts from police station to court as these are carried out by National Offender Management Service contractors. These figures do not include other police-related escort escapes such as escapes whilst been transported from point of arrest to police station or transport between police stations.

Notes:

1. All figures shown are for KPI Escapes recorded as part of the NOMS performance management system.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average population of *(a)* the open prison estate and *(b)* the entire prison estate in England and Wales was in each of the last five years. [245154]

Mr. Hanson: Figures relating to the total numbers of prisoners detained in both *(a)* all open prison establishments in England and Wales, and *(b)* the entire prison estate in England and Wales as at 30 June 2004 to 2008 can be found in the following table:

Open and total prison population as at 30 June 2004 to 2008 (England and Wales)

	Total open[1] prisons	Total prison population
2004	4,439	74,488
2005	4,410	76,190
2006	3,831	77,982
2007	4,252	79,734
2008	5,857	83,194

[1] Excludes those prison establishments which are not wholly open

The information regarding the total prison population can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

Information regarding the status of individual prisons can be found at the following website:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/prisoninformation/locateaprison/

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on trends in the prison population of implementing section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [245477]

Mr. Hanson: Many changes in legislation and policy with a definite timetable for implementation are incorporated into the published prison population projections.

The most significant factors which the Department deems relevant to and incorporates into the projections are:

Trends in sentencing behaviour, such as sentence lengths and custody rates.

Trends in crime, incorporated through the Criminal Justice System model.

Legislative impacts, such as the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

Procedural impacts, such as the Simple, Speedy, Summary Justice (CJSSS) scheme, and measures to increase offences brought to justice contributing to PSA24.

Factors that do not have an agreed timetable for implementation, such as the implementation of S12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, cannot be incorporated in the projections. However, analysis of options for implementation of S12 and their effects on the prison population will be made in preparation for commencement of that measure.

More details on the prison projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, 'Prison Population Projections 2008-2015' Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 18 September 2008. This is available at the following webpage:

http //www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government is taking to reduce the length of time between a prisoner's release and receipt of financial assistance. [245578]

Mr. Hanson: Officials from National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Department for Work and Pensions are working in partnership to ensure offenders receive financial assistance and benefits without unnecessary delay once released. Where there is a delay in receiving benefit claimed for, this is normally due to incorrectly completed benefit application forms or lack of formal identification. NOMS is now assisting offenders in gaining formal identification as part of normal resettlement processes and works closely with visiting Jobcentre Plus officials to ensure timely and accurate applications are made wherever possible. NOMS has also embarked on a number of other initiatives to assist in this process such as; exploring the benefits of arranging bank accounts, providing money management advice, financial capability training and assistance with setting up a Freshstart interview with Jobcentre Plus on release.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long on average it takes for an ex-prisoner to receive his discharge grant. [246066]

Mr. Hanson: All eligible prisoners are paid the discharge grant at the point of release from custody.

Prisoners Release: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign national prisoners released from prison and subject to offender management programmes have breached the conditions and obligations of such programmes in each of the last five years; [245787]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners released from prison and subject to offender management programmes and residency requirements *(a)* who have breached those residency requirements and *(b)* have whereabouts unknown to the National Offender Management Service there were in each of the last three years; [245788]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners released on licence have failed to report to their offender manager in each of the last five years. [245790]

Mr. Hanson: While information is collected by probation areas and trusts that list breaches of licence condition, it does not record offender's nationality.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions offender managers in cases involving foreign national prisoners whose cases fall within the scope of the victim contact scheme have not informed victim liaison officers of a prisoner's release into the community from custodial or immigration detention in each of the last three years. [245789]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not collated centrally by the National Offender Management Service. To attempt to obtain the information requested would require manual checking of case files and interviews with members of staff and would incur disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners granted immigration bail by Asylum and Immigration Tribunals have subsequently reoffended in each of the last five years. [245791]

Mr. Hanson: Information relating to the numbers of foreign national prisoners subject to deportation action who have completed their custodial sentence and been released on bail is not centrally collated at present. Similarly, reoffending data do not specifically identify the number of foreign national prisoners who reoffend. In order to provide the information requested it would be necessary to examine individual case files at disproportionate cost.

When a foreign criminal who is subject to deportation action is granted bail by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and it is believed that the individual presents a risk of harm to the public, the UK Border Agency will always request that the most robust restrictions are imposed upon the individual in order to minimise the

likelihood that they will reoffend. The agency will continue to pursue deportation action against such individuals and is on track to not only meet but exceed its target of deportation or removing 5,000 foreign criminals in 2008. Good progress has also been made overall in reducing reoffending; the latest figures show that between 2000 and 2006 the number of reoffences committed by offenders released from custody has fallen 15.1 per cent.

Prisoners: Armed Forces

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female former members of the (i) Royal Navy, (ii) Army, (iii) and Royal Air Force are in prison; and what studies his Department has (A) commissioned and (B) evaluated in links between service in the armed forces and subsequent behaviour leading to detention. [245189]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available. Although data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 showed that the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces in those years as 6 per cent., 4 per cent, and 5 per cent, respectively, no research was done on the particular problems raised in the question.

We are currently exploring with the Ministry of Defence ways to better identify the number of veterans currently serving prison sentences as well as the factors associated with their offending. A number of options are currently being assessed.

Prisoners: Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many adult prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection were in custody on 15 December 2008 beyond their minimum tariff; [245156]

(2) how many adults were serving indeterminate sentences for public protection on 15 December 2008. [245157]

Mr. Hanson: On 15 December 2008 there were 1,224 indeterminate sentence for public protection prisoners aged over 18, in custody, recorded as being beyond their original or adjusted tariff.

As of 15 December 2008, there were 4,581 offenders, aged over 18 years old recorded as serving indeterminate sentences for public protection.

These figures are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

It is for the independent Parole Board to determine whether the risk presented by an offender serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection is such that it may be safely managed in the community.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationality

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* Swedish and *(b)* Danish nationals are serving sentences in prisons in England and Wales. [245263]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September 2008 there were *(a)* 15 Swedish and *(b)* eight Danish prisoners serving sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Muslim prisoners there were in each prison in October *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006, *(e)* 2007 and *(f)* 2008; and what proportion of prisoners this represented in each prison. [245583]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers and percentages of Muslim prisoners in each prison establishment in England and Wales on 30 June each year can be found in the following tables.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and prisons with fewer than 50 Muslim prisoners have been excluded.

Numbers and proportions on Muslim prisoners by prison June 2003 to June 2008

	30 June 2003	
	Muslim prisoners	*Percentage of total*
Pentonville	193	16
Wandsworth	178	12
Brixton	164	20
Wormwood Scrubs	154	13
Dover	151	51
Belmarsh	145	16
Birmingham	138	15
Leeds	135	11
Bullingdon	132	14
The Mount	128	17
Dovegate	110	13
Manchester	107	8
Swaleside	105	14
Moorland Closed	102	13
Feltham	92	14
Lindholme	91	12
Rye Hill	84	13
Risley	83	8
Woodhill	83	11
Wayland	79	11
Forest Bank	74	7
Elmley	74	7
Highpoint	74	11
Blakenhurst	74	8
Whitemoor	73	18
Garth	71	11
Featherstone	70	11
Haslar	69	50
Full Sutton	68	11
Liverpool	68	5
Lowdham Grange	67	13
Camp Hill	67	13
Parkhurst	65	13
Sudbury	64	12
Aylesbury	64	18
Doncaster	63	6

Numbers and proportions on Muslim prisoners by prison June 2003 to June 2008

	30 June 2003	
	Muslim prisoners	*Percentage of total*
Frankland	62	10
Long Lartin	60	14
Wealstun	59	9
Grendon/Spring Hill	57	11
Stocken	57	9
High Down	53	7
Wellingborough	53	10
Standford Hill	53	12
Stafford	52	8
Onley	52	10
Everthorpe	51	11
Portland	50	12
Total Muslim prisoners	6,136	
All prisoners	73,657	
Muslims as percentage of all	8	

	30 June 2004	
	Muslim prisoners	*Percentage of total*
Pentonville	220	18
Wormwood Scrubs	213	17
Birmingham	193	14
Wandsworth	185	13
Brixton	164	20
Belmarsh	147	16
Leeds	140	11
Swaleside	127	16
Feltham	125	20
Bullingdon	122	13
Dovegate	119	14
The Mount	114	15
Manchester	112	9
Rye Hill	104	16
Highpoint	99	12
Dover	95	39
Risley	88	8
Forest Bank	86	9
Woodhill	85	11
Doncaster	84	8
Full Sutton	82	14
Moorland Closed	78	10
Portland	78	17
Lindholme	75	11
Wayland	74	11
Whitemoor	74	18
Sudbury	73	13
Camp Hill	72	13
Garth	71	11
Lowdham Grange	66	13
Featherstone	65	11
Ranby	64	8
Grendon/Spring Hill	63	12
Norwich	62	9
High Down	62	8
Parkhurst	61	12
Blakenhurst	61	7
Brinsford	60	14
Elmley	58	6
Liverpool	58	4
Long Lartin	58	13
Blundeston	58	13

	30 June 2004	
	Muslim prisoners	*Percentage of total*
Stocken	57	9
Frankland	56	8
Aylesbury	54	15
Nottingham	53	10
Everthorpe	52	11
Standford Hill	50	11
Littlehey	50	7
Total Muslim prisoners	6,571	
All prisoners	74,488	
Muslims as percentage of all	9	

	30 June 2005	
	Muslim prisoners	*Percentage of total*
Wormwood Scrubs	237	19
Pentonville	217	18
Wandsworth	209	15
Birmingham	163	11
Brixton	162	20
Belmarsh	146	16
Leeds	135	11
Swaleside	134	17
Bullingdon	134	14
Feltham	130	21
Manchester	126	10
Rye Hill	126	21
The Mount	125	18
Dover	123	43
Lindholme	115	14
Dovegate	110	14
Highpoint	107	13
Blakenhurst	105	10
Woodhill	93	12
High Down	90	12
Wealstun	88	11
Garth	86	13
Moorland Closed	86	11
Full Sutton	85	14
Featherstone	84	14
Doncaster	83	8
Elmley	81	8
Portland	77	20
Blundeston	75	16
Whitemoor	75	17
Aylesbury	75	18
Swinfen Hall	72	12
Ranby	71	7
Wayland	69	10
Liverpool	68	5
Long Lartin	67	15
Wymott	65	6
Forest Bank	65	6
Risley	64	6
Rochester	63	16
Frankland	63	9
Grendon/Spring Hill	63	12
Camp Hill	62	11
Lowdham Grange	62	13
The Verne	60	10
Maidstone	60	11
Ashwell	59	11

	30 June 2005 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Glen Parva	58	7
Norwich	57	7
Brinsford	56	13
Littlehey	55	8
Sudbury	53	10
Onley	53	10
Bedford	53	11
Kirkham	53	10
Preston	52	9
Chelmsford	50	9
Ford	50	10
Total Muslim prisoners	7,246	
All prisoners	76,190	
Muslims as percentage of all	10	

	30 June 2006 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Wandsworth	263	18
Wormwood Scrubs	241	19
Pentonville	220	19
Brixton	197	25
Birmingham	188	13
Feltham	180	30
Manchester	171	14
Belmarsh	154	17
Highpoint	151	19
Leeds	144	12
The Mount	139	19
Bullingdon	133	14
Wealstun	133	17
Swaleside	132	17
Dovegate	129	16
Lindholme	129	15
Rye Hill	121	20
Ranby	109	11
Woodhill	107	14
Forest Bank	103	10
Dover	100	40
Lowdham Grange	97	18
Doncaster	92	8
Long Lartin	91	21
High Down	89	12
Aylesbury	88	20
Wellingborough	86	14
Portland	85	18
Maidstone	83	14
Wayland	83	12
Blakenhurst	83	8
Full Sutton	82	14
Moorland Closed	80	10
Swinfen Hall	79	13
Onley	77	13
Ashwell	77	14
Elmley	76	8
Blundeston	73	16
Frankland	73	10
Whitemoor	73	17
Rochester	71	18
Glen Parva	70	9
Risley	69	6

	30 June 2006 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
The Verne	68	12
Bedford	67	14
Sudbury	66	12
Huntercombe	65	18
Liverpool	65	5
Littlehey	64	9
Stocken	64	10
Everthorpe	64	10
Stafford	62	9
Haslar	61	43
Peterborough	60	7
Parkhurst	60	12
Brinsford	59	13
Featherstone	58	9
Chelmsford	57	10
Norwich	57	7
Camp Hill	56	10
Grendon/Spring Hill	56	11
Garth	55	9
Stoke Heath	55	8
Coldingley	54	14
Canterbury	54	19
Whatton	51	7
Parc	51	5
Cardiff	51	7
Buckley Hall	51	14
Wakefield	51	7
Holme House	50	5
Total Muslim prisoners	8,243	
All prisoners	77,982	
Muslims as percentage of all	11	

	30 June 2007 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Wandsworth	273	19
Wormwood Scrubs	265	21
Pentonville	239	21
Brixton	209	26
Birmingham	194	13
Feltham	176	29
Belmarsh	175	19
The Mount	163	23
Manchester	159	13
Highpoint	149	19
Swaleside	144	18
Wealstun	140	18
Dovegate	139	17
Doncaster	132	12
Lindholme	130	13
Lowdham Grange	129	20
Ranby	129	13
Rye Hill	125	19
Leeds	123	12
Bullingdon	122	13
Portland	116	21
Woodhill	114	14
Wellingborough	110	17
Dover	110	37
Blakenhurst	106	10
Long Lartin	105	24

	30 June 2007 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Forest Bank	103	10
Aylesbury	101	23
Chelmsford	100	15
Onley	96	16
Whitemoor	94	20
High Down	90	12
Risley	88	8
Ashwell	87	16
Blundeston	85	18
Maidstone	78	13
Sudbury	78	15
Moorland Closed	77	10
Full Sutton	77	13
The Verne	76	13
Wayland	74	11
Swinfen Hall	74	12
Grendon/Spring Hill	74	14
Elmley	74	8
Frankland	73	10
Canterbury	72	26
Brinsford	71	15
Featherstone	71	12
Peterborough	69	8
Rochester	67	17
Glen Parva	67	8
Stafford	67	10
Huntercombe	66	18
Stocken	63	10
Wakefield	61	8
Littlehey	61	9
Cardiff	61	8
Buckley Hall	60	16
Gartree	60	10
Camp Hill	60	10
Everthorpe	58	9
Stoke Heath	58	9
Edmunds Hill	58	16
Bedford	57	12
Coldingley	57	15
Liverpool	57	4
Parc	56	5
Wymott	55	5
Parkhurst	53	10
Norwich	52	9
Garth	51	8
Guys Marsh	50	9
Total Muslim prisoners	8,864	
All prisoners	79,734	
Muslims as percentage of all	11	

	30 June 2008 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Wandsworth	350	21
Wormwood Scrubs	289	23
Pentonville	263	23
Birmingham	222	15
Brixton	215	27
The Mount	208	27
Swaleside	185	24
Feltham	185	29
Lindholme	183	17

	30 June 2008 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Belmarsh	181	20
Hewell	174	12
High Down	165	15
Highpoint	157	19
Manchester	144	12
Lowdham Grange	142	21
Ranby	142	13
Whitemoor	140	34
Dovegate	138	16
Portland	125	20
Bullingdon	124	12
Wayland	123	13
Leeds	121	12
Aylesbury	120	27
Rye Hill	118	19
Chelmsford	118	17
Woodhill	113	14
Full Sutton	109	19
Rochester	108	28
Wellingborough	107	17
Doncaster	106	9
Forest Bank	106	9
Long Lartin	106	24
Blundeston	104	20
Dover	104	34
Swinfen Hall	100	16
Onley	98	15
The Verne	94	16
Canterbury	92	30
Risley	90	8
Sudbury	87	15
Huntercombe	81	23
Moorland Closed	80	10
Garth	79	10
Stocken	77	10
Featherstone	76	11
Grendon/Spring Hill	76	15
Glen Parva	75	9
Wealstun	74	14
Elmley	73	7
Brinsford	72	14
Wymott	72	7
Bedford	71	14
Peterborough	71	7
Camp Hill	70	12
Ashwell	69	13
Littlehey	68	10
Maidstone	67	14
Wakefield	66	9
Liverpool	65	5
Everthorpe	65	10
Edmunds Hill	64	18
Whatton	62	8
Gartree	62	11
Frankland	60	8
Parc	57	5
Preston	57	8
Ford	55	10
Norwich	54	10
Buckley Hall	53	14
Hindley	52	11
Cardiff	52	7
Stafford	52	8
Bullwood Hall	52	24

	30 June 2008 Muslim prisoners	Percentage of total
Coldingley	51	13
Total Muslim prisoners	9,795	
All prisoners	83,194	
Muslims as percentage of all	12	

Note:
Prisons with fewer than 50 Muslim prisoners have been excluded.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of prisoners in each prison who have converted to Islam while in prison in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [246533]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not collected in the form required, and could be obtained only at significant disproportionate cost. When a prisoner changes religion this is recorded locally by the chaplaincy team on the prisoner's record. There is no current requirement for this information to be collated centrally.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were unable to attend workshops, courses or other rehabilitative sessions due to wing refurbishment or other building works in each prison in England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available; for how many days prisoners were made to attend such courses in that period; and if he will make a statement. [245152]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) do not hold information on the number of prisoners that were unable to attend workshops, courses or other rehabilitative sessions due to wing refurbishment or other buildings works in prisons in England and Wales.

Building works and refurbishments are essential to enable the Prison Service to ensure that the existing facilities are maintained and additionally to provide the number of prisoner places required to meet the needs of an increasing prison population. Since April 2007 the capacity programme has delivered 4,162 essential additional prisoner places.

Every effort is made to prevent disruption to prison regimes and each prison endeavours to continue to provide a range of purposeful activities. NOMS measures the amount of purposeful activity recorded on average by every prisoner, the outturn for 2007-08 was 25.3 hours per prisoner per week.

The following table provides details of the workshop, education and rehabilitation hours completed by prisoners in all prisons in England and Wales during the period 2007-08.

Average number of hours per prisoner per week

Prison name	Education	Production workshops	OBPs	Tackling substance abuse
Acklington	4.94	3.64	0.50	0.12
Albany	3.17	5.44	0.92	0.02
Altcourse	8.67	4.16	0.24	1.55
Ashfield	15.74	0.00	0.06	0.25
Ashwell	3.97	7.45	0.32	0.33
Askham Grange	9.02	0.00	0.00	0.14
Aylesbury	6.20	0.75	0.80	0.21
Bedford	3.23	1.64	0.00	0.61
Belmarsh	1.98	1.87	0.00	0.64
Birmingham	4.60	3.95	0.00	0.29
Blakenhurst	3.53	3.77	0.76	0.34
Blantyre House	4.31	0.00	0.00	0.16
Blundeston	3.13	6.25	0.43	0.44
Brinsford	8.36	0.00	0.17	0.31
Bristol	2.80	1.38	0.08	0.42
Brixton	1.88	0.00	0.02	0.34
Brockhill	6.06	2.75	0.00	0.23
Bronzefield	5.53	0.46	0.00	0.35
Buckley Hall	6.10	3.89	0.16	0.16
Bullingdon	3.36	3.51	1.02	1.89
Bullwood Hall	6.91	1.91	0.00	0.18
Camp Hill	3.53	3.78	0.14	0.36
Canterbury	2.81	4.57	0.00	0.15
Cardiff	2.95	2.84	0.00	1.71
Castington	9.13	0.00	0.29	0.23
Channings Wood	5.16	3.47	0.17	2.95
Chelmsford	3.57	3.35	0.12	0.12
Coldingley	3.97	9.37	0.00	2.23
Cookham Wood	5.79	9.10	0.37	0.35
Dartmoor	2.88	4.03	0.22	0.56
Deerbolt	6.74	0.68	0.33	0.41
Doncaster	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dorchester	4.34	0.00	0.00	0.88
Downview	4.40	2.47	0.11	0.17
Drake Hall	3.92	6.63	0.21	1.55
Durham	2.80	1.26	0.11	0.42
East Sutton Park	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.05
Eastwood Park	4.87	0.00	0.00	0.68
Edmunds Hill	5.48	0.49	0.04	0.34
Elmley	2.73	2.92	0.15	0.36
Erlestoke	5.27	3.16	0.26	0.71
Everthorpe	12.25	0.00	0.17	1.81
Exeter	3.35	1.95	0.54	0.18
Featherstone	3.28	8.59	0.37	0.13
Feltham	7.15	0.00	0.00	0.30
Ford	5.23	6.61	0.04	0.32
Forest Bank	3.10	2.96	0.00	0.72
Foston Hall	6.71	0.88	0.13	0.63
Frankland	4.03	2.24	0.64	0.14
Full Sutton	3.07	2.22	0.26	0.15
Garth	4.05	4.57	0.17	4.21
Gartree	6.64	4.84	0.58	0.16
Glen Parva	5.62	1.78	0.14	0.56
Gloucester	2.92	0.00	0.00	1.12
Grendon	3.28	0.00	0.55	0.05
Guys Marsh	5.38	6.05	0.18	0.41
Haverigg	4.08	7.19	0.00	0.33
Hewell Grange	4.60	0.00	0.34	0.05
High Down	2.55	0.93	0.00	0.49

Average number of hours per prisoner per week

Prison name	*Education*	*Production workshops*	*OBPs*	*Tackling substance abuse*
Highpoint	2.92	4.06	0.26	0.17
Hindley	13.18	0.42	0.28	0.40
Hollesley Bay	3.94	0.00	0.01	0.64
Holloway	5.22	0.22	0.05	0.18
Holme House	3.52	2.01	0.10	0.49
Hull	4.62	2.75	0.59	0.13
Huntercombe	10.25	0.00	0.00	0.40
Kennet	8.16	0.00	0.07	0.16
Kingston	3.85	7.50	0.43	0.05
Kirkham	3.89	5.95	0.00	0.46
Kirklevington	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.33
Lancaster	3.51	0.68	0.00	1.58
Lancaster Farms	8.65	0.00	0.17	0.59
Latchmere House	7.68	0.48	0.00	0.16
Leeds	4.28	2.97	0.00	0.19
Leicester	5.06	0.00	1.70	4.52
Lewes	2.91	1.65	0.23	0.12
Leyhill	3.95	3.31	0.17	0.22
Lincoln	1.49	5.22	0.00	0.56
Lindholme	6.22	1.41	0.09	0.37
Littlehey	4.38	5.23	1.17	0.29
Liverpool	5.50	4.02	0.07	0.03
Long Lartin	2.78	3.09	0.33	0.20
Low Newton	6.45	2.49	0.29	0.18
Lowdham Grange	8.87	4.41	0.22	0.08
Maidstone	2.32	5.59	0.42	0.27
Manchester	4.00	4.35	0.22	0.42
Moorland	7.88	3.78	0.28	0.14
Morton Hall	4.42	12.53	0.04	0.05
Mount	7.19	3.49	0.14	1.01
New Hall	7.08	4.17	0.33	0.22
North Sea Camp	3.92	0.00	0.00	0.60
Northallerton	10.97	1.55	0.00	0.47
Norwich	2.07	1.48	0.00	0.10
Nottingham	1.94	3.31	0.00	0.39
Onley	5.08	0.77	0.17	0.35
Parc	3.98	5.64	0.36	0.20
Parkhurst	3.19	4.42	0.29	0.28
Pentonville	1.88	3.32	0.41	0.08
Portland	5.10	0.56	0.15	0.29
Preston	2.94	0.00	0.12	0.00
Ranby	2.74	5.95	0.04	0.37
Reading	4.18	0.00	0.33	1.41
Risley	3.61	2.89	0.43	0.11
Rochester	2.98	4.19	0.00	0.28
Rye Hill	5.68	6.99	0.43	0.04
Send	4.56	1.88	0.09	0.00
Shepton Mallet	6.96	6.02	0.61	0.19
Shrewsbury	2.99	5.02	0.00	0.30
Stafford	4.26	8.12	0.61	0.12
Standford Hill	3.06	2.28	0.01	0.16
Stocken	4.92	3.29	0.15	0.24
Stoke Heath	6.69	2.64	0.09	0.43
Styal	5.85	1.49	0.00	0.34
Sudbury	5.60	3.06	0.06	0.21
Swaleside	3.83	2.63	0.32	0.46
Swansea	1.37	3.27	0.80	0.20
Swinfen Hall	7.32	1.07	0.86	0.41
Thorn Cross	12.00	0.00	0.34	0.69
Usk/ Prescoed	10.01	0.38	0.58	0.14
Verne	5.91	4.22	0.14	0.12
Wakefield	4.83	3.03	0.43	0.07
Wandsworth	5.00	1.90	0.15	0.94
Warren Hill	16.34	0.00	0.13	0.49
Wayland	5.01	2.26	0.68	0.05
Wealstun	5.91	5.35	0.42	0.13
Wellingborough	6.28	2.48	0.40	0.60
Werrington	20.85	0.00	0.00	0.69
Wetherby	11.66	0.00	0.14	0.42
Wharton	3.53	4.81	1.49	0.02
Whitemoor	3.43	2.86	0.26	0.07
Winchester	2.91	1.69	0.00	0.62
Wolds	8.99	3.86	0.24	0.27
Woodhill	2.12	0.05	0.09	0.48
Wormwood Scrubs	2.01	1.56	0.04	0.31
Wymott	3.35	8.57	0.31	2.15

Notes:
1. Data not available for Dovegate and Peterborough.
2. Immigration Removal Centres Dover and Haslar not included.
3. Breakdown for Lowdham Grange based on eight months out of 12.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons are at more than 150 per cent. of in use certified normal accommodation. [245153]

Mr. Hanson: On 31 October 2008 (latest available), there were 13 out of 140 prison establishments in England and Wales with more than 150 per cent of in use certified normal accommodation.

This information has been taken from the Ministry of Justice publication "Population in Custody Monthly Brief" which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures must be followed to consult the governor of a prison on proposals to downgrade that prison. [245458]

Mr. Hanson: Prison performance ratings are determined by Criminal Justice Strategy Group using a range of performance data. The proposed ratings are reviewed by the chief operating officer, National Offender Management Service (NOMS), who provides the opportunity for area managers to consult governors and propose moderation. Following consultation the chief operating officer may choose to submit a request to amend a rating to the moderation panel chaired by the director general of the Criminal Justice Strategy Group. Moderated ratings were published on the NOMS intranet on Friday 12 December 2008.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account is taken of the security categorisation of prisoners when making decisions about moving prisoners to secure hospitals. [246207]

Mr. Hanson: The prime concern when considering the suitability of a prisoner for transfer to a mental health hospital is to guard against danger to the public that may ensue should a patient escape from, or be improperly allowed out of, that hospital.

While the prisoner's security category is an element of the consideration, account is taken of more far-reaching factors when making this decision. These include, but are not limited to:

- the type and nature of the offence
- length of sentence
- notoriety
- victim issues
- previous convictions
- behaviour in prison
- any previous absconds
- prisoner's security category
- views expressed by the court
- the medical practitioners' recommendations
- the prisoner's past and current presenting symptoms (e.g. actively suicidal or assaultative) clinical need

Prisons: Visits

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at which prisons it is the practice to *(a)* photograph and *(b)* take fingerprint impressions from official visitors; and what action is taken in respect of such records following a visit. [245673]

Mr. Hanson: There is no requirement for establishments to provide data to headquarters about how they use and operate their systems and there is no central record of numbers of these systems in place across the country.

The information requested is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by contacting each prison individually.

Probation Service for England and Wales

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the size of the Probation Service's caseload in England and Wales is for *(a)* community supervision, *(b)* licence and *(c)* through care. [246750]

Mr. Hanson: At 30 June 2008, the number of offenders supervised by the Probation Service in England and Wales under community supervision was 147,786; the number supervised on post release licence was 31,583; and the number supervised pre-release was 68,407.

These figures are taken from the Probation Statistics Quarterly Brief, April to June 2008, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Royal Family: Wills

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions his Department and its predecessors have had with *(a)* Buckingham Palace and *(b)* lawyers acting for the Royal Family on the publication practice on Royal wills in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [242080]

Mr. Straw: An application to seal a royal will is made to the Principal Registry of the Family Division and is decided by the President of the Family Division. In the last 10 years there have been two such applications; namely those in respect of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. So far as I am aware, there have not been any discussions between my Department and its predecessors with Buckingham Palace or lawyers acting for the Royal Family in relation to the policy or practice on the publication of royal wills.

Sexual Offences: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1691-2W, on sexual offences: drugs, how many of the 11 convicted sex offenders referred for initial assessment have been given anti-libidinal drug treatment. [246325]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not recorded centrally. Due to the small numbers involved the information could not be obtained and reported without breaching medical confidentiality.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245721]

Mr. Wills: The Department is committed to accessibility, and in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible, follows guidance which is consistent with the Royal National Institute for the Blind guidance and Central Office of Information Informability for making information accessible.

The Department's standard approach is to produce information materials in black text on white background, which provides a good contrast for people with sight impairment, including red/green colour blindness. The Department also endeavours to provide alternative formats to meet specific needs, if required.

Young Offenders: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings have taken place between the *(a)* National Offender Management Service and *(b)* Youth Justice Board and the Welsh Assembly Government to discuss the mental health needs of young offenders

(i) in custody in Wales and (ii) in young offender institutions in England who have been assessed as requiring mental health services on release in each month of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [245810]

Mr. Hanson: There is a joint Welsh Assembly Government and Youth Justice Board Youth Justice Committee for Wales that includes NOMS representation, which has responsibility for overseeing youth justice matters in Wales. This would include devolved areas of responsibility such as mental health matters for young people. The Committee meets on a quarterly basis and during 2008 met on;

30 January 2008

8 April 2008

23 July 2008

22 October 2008

Outside the Committee there is ongoing dialogue with the Welsh Assembly Government about the provision of mental health services for people in the justice system.

Bridgend Prison Health Partnership Board has recently forwarded a draft business case to the Welsh assembly Government for provision of Tier 2/3 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS). That is now under consideration.

For young offender institutes in England, there is a high level programme board the Health and Social Care Policy Development Programme Board, which meets quarterly. The board oversees a programme of cross government work for this group of vulnerable children. There is also a 'Health and Social Care Management Group' who meet monthly. Both of these meetings have representation from Ministry of Justice, Department of Health, Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Youth Justice Board.

During 2008, the Health and Social Care Policy Development Programme Board met on;

11 March 2008

29 September 2008

15 December 2008

During 2008, the Health and Social Care Management Group met on;

24 January 2008

21 February 2008

24 April 2008

22 May 2008

19 June 2008

17 July 2008

16 October 2008

20 November 2008

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 13 January 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cuba

9. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK-Cuba relations; and if he will make a statement. [246483]

Gillian Merron: UK-Cuba relations continue to improve. Our policy, based on mutual respect, aims to encourage a move to a pluralist democracy and full respect for human rights. These are objectives we share with our EU partners.

Chevening Scholarships

10. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships have been awarded to Tibetans in the last 10 years. [246484]

Caroline Flint: Four Chevening scholarships have been awarded to ethnic Tibetans applying in China in the last 10 years; two in 2004-05, and one each in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Israeli Settlements

11. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the expropriation of 23 square miles of Palestinian land to the east of Jerusalem to build homes for settlers. [246485]

Bill Rammell: We have long made it clear to the Israeli Government that any Israeli settlement activity is not only illegal under international law, it is also in contravention of Israel's obligations under the road map and detrimental to the peace process. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary voiced strong opposition to illegal Israeli settlements during his visit to the region on 16-19 November 2008. I also raised the issue during my visit to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories on 21-23 December 2008.

Zimbabwe

12. **James Duddridge:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of recent political developments in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [246486]

14. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of political developments in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [246488]

Gillian Merron: The continuing political impasse is a direct result of Robert Mugabe's abuse of power. We believe that power sharing can work but that Mr. Mugabe is an obstacle to it. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minster and the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown have been clear on this point. But ultimately it is for Zimbabweans, not the UK, to decide what can constitute a durable and sustainable government in Zimbabwe. We will continue with our intense diplomatic activity and our humanitarian commitment continues.

Cyprus

13. **David Lepper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely outcome of negotiations in Cyprus on the future governance of the island. [246487]

Caroline Flint: The current negotiations represent the best opportunity Cypriots have ever had to reach a settlement. We fully support the efforts of the two leaders and the UN Special Envoy to Cyprus, Alexander Downer. Progress has been made but it is important that the momentum of the talks is increased. We hope the current process will deliver a settlement all Cypriots can support.

Seditious Libel and Criminal Defamation

15. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the effects of laws of seditious libel and criminal defamation in foreign countries. [246489]

Gillian Merron: We urge all countries to fulfil their obligations under international law, including under UN human rights conventions. We work to safeguard the international framework which protects and extends the right to freedom of expression and to support change on the ground, along with international, regional and local partners.

International Terrorism

17. **Mr. George Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which international terrorist activity is linked to extremist activity in Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [246491]

Bill Rammell: Those who suffer most from violent extremism in Pakistan are ordinary Pakistanis. However, violent extremism in Pakistan, particularly from global terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda that take haven in the tribal areas, is also a threat to the UK and others. Pakistan is a key ally in defeating these groups.

Climate Change

18. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of his Department's performance in persuading other countries to subscribe to action to address climate change. [246492]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its network of posts are working to create the political conditions for a global deal at Copenhagen to avoid dangerous climate change.

We are working beyond traditional government-to-government diplomacy to mobilise civil society, business leaders and others.

We assess posts' progress twice a year, as part of the FCO's business planning cycle. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 744W, giving examples of progress.

Since then FCO posts have contributed to the major agreement reached at the December European Council on the EU's ambitious package of climate change and energy legislation, including a 20 per cent. cut in the EU's greenhouse gas emissions (to be increased to 30 per cent. as part of the right international agreement).

Gaza

19. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Gaza. [246493]

Bill Rammell: The Government are extremely concerned with the current violence in Gaza. We are in close contact with all the key players and at the centre of efforts to reach a ceasefire and secure urgent humanitarian assistance. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was instrumental in gaining UN Security Council agreement around a British text, which became Resolution 1860. This now needs to be reflected in reality on the ground. For any ceasefire to be sustainable it must include action to stop illegal arms trafficking into Gaza and to open the crossings into Gaza.

Guinea-Bissau

20 **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the arms-clearing project in Guinea-Bissau supported by his Department. [246494]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has part funded an Explosive Remnants of War Removal Project by Cleared Ground Demining (a non-governmental organisation) in Guinea Bissau.

This project has removed 1.5 tonnes of munitions and held seminars which reached over 1,100 people to warn local populations on how to handle explosive remnants.

The UK has also contributed to other mine clearance projects through the Conflict Prevention Pool.

US Secretary of State

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to meet the incoming US Secretary of State to discuss UK-US relations. [246495]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary looks forward to a close working relationship with the incoming US Secretary of State following the President's inauguration, which will of course involve face-to-face meetings in the US, UK and elsewhere. He has already spoken to her by telephone.

EU: Czech Presidency

22. **John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Czech Presidency's EU agenda. [246496]

Caroline Flint: The Czech presidency of the EU began on 1 January and ends on 30 June 2009. It has a full agenda focussing on energy, external and economic issues. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office produces a Command Paper on each EU presidency every six months and this will be laid before the House before the end of January. It will also be placed in the Library of the House and on the FCO website at www.fco.gov.uk. The Government have worked very closely with the Czech Government following Prime Minister Topolanek's visit in December of last year.

Pakistan-India

23. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of relations between Pakistan and India; and if he will make a statement. [246497]

Bill Rammell: This has been a sensitive time for the region following the Mumbai attacks. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are in contact with their counterparts in India and Pakistan to press the importance of Pakistan and India cooperating fully to bring those responsible to justice, and ensuring this terrible act does not undermine earlier progress towards the normalisation of relations and prevent further constructive dialogue between the two countries.

Iran

24. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of Iran's level of co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. [246498]

Bill Rammell: We assess that Iran's level of cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been inadequate in a number of critical areas. The IAEA Director General's report of 19 November 2008 highlighted Iran's failure to implement transparency measures including the Additional Protocol; provide substantive information on their alleged studies with a possible military dimension; provide access to the heavy water reactor at Arak on 26 October 2008.

Belarus

25. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of relations between Belarus and the UK; and if he will make a statement. [246499]

Caroline Flint: Following the release of three remaining political prisoners in August 2008, the UK supported the EU decision in October to suspend the visa ban for six months to encourage further reforms.

We have seen some small improvements—two opposition newspapers are now on sale in small quantities, and an opposition party has been allowed to register with the authorities. However, we continue to encourage the Belarusian Government to take further progress on human rights.

Kashmir

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Indian Government on Kashmir. [246490]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Kashmir with Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee on 2 September and 24 October 2008. The UK continues to urge both India and Pakistan to seek a lasting resolution to the issue of Kashmir, which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will visit India on 13 and 14 January and will discuss India-Pakistan relations with the Indian Prime Minister, Home Minister and External Affairs Minister.

British Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Daventry of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1048-49W, on exchange rates, whether the British Council plans to reduce any programmes in consequence of the reduction in purchasing power of its core grant. [242283]

David Miliband: The British Council recognises that the significant weakening of Sterling over the last few months, particularly against US dollar linked currencies, has undermined its purchasing power. In the current year they expect the absolute impact to be equivalent to a £10 million cut in spending capacity or around 8 per cent. of their grant in aid programme spend. In response they will try to preserve as much programme spend as possible, by short term cost savings and, where necessary, by deferring programme spend into the 2009-10 financial year.

Cyprus: Economic Situation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the prospects for the Turkish Cypriot economy; and if he will make a statement. [245190]

Caroline Flint: The economy is currently in recession. Settlement of the Cyprus problem is likely to bring very substantial economic benefits to both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. The recent International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) report estimated that the benefit for each Cypriot household would be 5,500 euros in average per year during the first seven years after a solution. The full report can be found at:

http://www.prio.no/files/manual-import/cyprus/dayafter/Report-The%20day%20after.pdf

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people participated in his Department's work placement scheme; in which regions they resided; what proportion attended *(a)* state and *(b)* independent schools; and what proportion attended (i) Oxford and Cambridge and (ii) other universities in each of the last 10 years. [244272]

Gillian Merron: The following table provides information on those attending work placements at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

	Region	*Number*	*School*	*Number*	*Universities*	*Number*
2008	South East	47	State	32	Oxford/ Cambridge	23
	South West	3	Independent	23	Other university	28
	Wales	1	Not known	6		
	Midlands	6				
	North East	2				
	North West	2				
2007	South East	34	State	10	Oxford/ Cambridge	11
	South West	3	Independent	0	Other university	27
	Wales	2	Not known	39	Not known	1
	Midlands	4				
	North East	2				
	North West	3				
	Not known	1				
2006	South East	27	State	10	Oxford/ Cambridge	11
	South West	7	Independent	0	Other university	25
	Wales	1	Not known	38	Not known	2
	Midlands	6				
	North East	2				
	North West	1				
	Scotland	3				
	Channel Islands	1				

From 1999 to 2008, FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO, participated in the Equal Choices Schools Initiative programme. They take 16 children annually, from ethnic minority backgrounds, who spend two days gaining an insight into their work.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer of 27 November 2006 *Official Report*, column 487W for information on the regional backgrounds and numbers of students undertaking work experience at the FCO, before 2006.

The school background of work placement students is not requested as a matter of course at the application stage and has therefore only been provided when held.

Drugs: Smuggling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prevent illegal drugs reaching the UK from abroad. [243684]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) remains engaged on drugs and crime work, even though the policy lead passed to Home Office as from 1 April 2008. In London, we give policy advice to operational agencies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and UK Border Agency (UKBA) and task our global network to help deliver the Government's objectives. Our Posts overseas continue to provide political reporting and lobbying support where necessary.

Our focus is now at strategic level, where the FCO can best add value (foreign policy expertise, building relationships with partner countries, creating effective multipliers through the EU and other multi-lateral bodies). This involves close co-operation with Home Office, SOCA, UKBA, Metropolitan Police Service, Crown Prosecution Service and HM Revenue and Customs to define the threat from drugs and crime to the UK and decide how/where best to tackle it overseas.

Through the FCO's Drugs and Crime programme we are helping to build capacity amongst local law enforcement agencies and judiciaries, with the provision of training and equipment. We work closely with other partners including the EU and US, to maximise joint effort.

We are tackling the problem of the trade in opium from Afghanistan through a multi-pronged strategy, which aims to reduce opium production there over time by offering farmers alternative livelihoods, building better governance, promoting the rule of law, rooting out corruption, interdicting the trade, eradicating opium poppy where possible, and breaking the link between the trade and the insurgency. This work is funded by the Afghan counter-narcotics programme.

Libya: Terrorism

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's meeting with the hon. Member for Belfast North and others on 10 December, whether he plans to press the Government of Libya to reopen the question of compensation to victims of terrorism in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [244967]

Bill Rammell: The meeting between the PM and the hon. Member for Belfast North and others on 10 December provided an opportunity for discussion on this issue. The PM is acutely aware of the sensitivities and frustrations of this issue, as he expressed during this meeting. I would emphasise that the Government does not condone in any way Libya's past actions and the victims of IRA atrocities have our whole hearted sympathy. We have tested the Libyan position on IRA compensation on a number of occasions and the US raised it on our behalf in August this year. Each time the Libyans have reiterated that they consider the matter closed. As the PM stated on 10 December, we will not therefore seek to negotiate a bilateral settlement on this issue with Libya. However, we will monitor the position of Libya in relation to this issue. The Government have already openly responded to queries on compensation for victims of IRA terrorism and will continue to do so.

Rashid Rauf

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United Kingdom intelligence services had knowledge of Mr Rashid Rauf's whereabouts on the night of the US air strike of 21 November 2008 in North Waziristan, Pakistan. [243425]

Bill Rammell: It is the long standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* the Government of Pakistan and *(b)* the US Administration have made representations to the UK Government about the US air strike of 21 November in North Waziristan, Pakistan. [243429]

Bill Rammell: We have frequent discussions with both the US and Pakistan about how to deal with the problem of violent extremism in Pakistan. The subject of US missile strikes in Pakistan is a matter for the US and Pakistani Governments. We have asked the Government of Pakistan whether they can confirm the press reports that a dual Pakistani-British national was killed in the attack of 21 November.

Russia: Broadcasting

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had on the restriction of Russian broadcasters to the UK since 1990. [245878]

Caroline Flint: Since 1990, the FCO has had no discussions on restricting Russian broadcasters to the UK.

Russia: Detainees

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the legal system in Russia and *(b)* the Russian Federation's compliance with its commitments under the European Convention on Human Rights, with regard to the treatment of (i) Mikhail Khodorkovsky and (ii) Platon Lebedev; [246835]

(2) what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* members of his Department and *(c)* UK representatives overseas have had with (i) members and (ii) representatives of the government of the Russian Federation on the ongoing imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev; [246837]

(3) if he will make a statement on *(a)* the ongoing imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev and other individuals affected by the Yukos affair and the recent refusal of parole to them and *(b)* the role played by the Russian government and its agencies in their ongoing imprisonment; [246838]

(4) what arrangements the British Embassy in Moscow is making to monitor the forthcoming new trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev *(a)* unilaterally and *(b)* in co-operation with other EU embassies; [246839]

(5) if his Department will make representations to the Russian government on *(a)* the ongoing imprisonment of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev and *(b)* the recent decision by the Russian courts to limit the defendants' access to materials pertinent to their case. [246840]

Caroline Flint: Promoting the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, is a key element of the UK's and EU's engagement with Russia. We are concerned that judicial reform in Russia is not progressing as rapidly as is needed. The UK and the EU will also continue to encourage Russia to fulfil all the international commitments it has signed up to, including those under the European convention on human rights.

We have raised and continue to raise regularly our concerns about the arbitrary application of the rule of law in Russia, both bilaterally and through the EU, including the cases of both Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev. We also have concerns about the due process and fair treatment of others who have been arrested or prosecuted in the Yukos Affair. These include concerns about access to lawyers and medical care, conditions of detention and the alleged harassment of defence teams and witnesses. While we welcome the recent release on bail of Vasily Aleksanyan, we remain concerned about the delay in the early release hearing for Svetlana Bakhmina. We will continue to monitor developments in these cases, co-ordinating trial monitoring with EU partners in line with EU guidelines on protection of human rights defenders.

We will raise these issues at the UK/Russia bilateral human rights talks on 16 January 2009.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the Government of Sudan to facilitate clearance of UN-AM Mission in Darfur equipment through a single point of entry at Port Sudan following its agreement earlier this year; and what discussions the Special Envoy to Sudan has had with the Government of Sudan on this matter. [242832]

Gillian Merron: As part of a tripartite agreement reached on 7 October 2008 with the UN and the African Union, the Government of Sudan undertook to facilitate clearance of UN/AM Mission in Darfur equipment through a single point of entry at Port Sudan. This clearance has subsequently been granted.

We have underlined the importance of implementation of the tripartite agreement with the Government of Sudan, including through the UK Special Representative for Sudan, as well as in the UN Security Council, and will continue to monitor progress.

Western Sahara

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has discussed with his Moroccan counterpart the delay in appointing a new personal envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara. [244264]

Bill Rammell: The appointment of Personal Envoys and Special Representatives is a matter for the Secretary-General and we respect his independence in making such appointments. The UK hopes that the UN Secretary-General will appoint a new Personal Envoy shortly and that a further round of negotiations will take place soon. We have called on the parties to maintain their commitment to the negotiation process.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether UK-registered trawlers are fishing in waters off occupied Western Sahara. [244922]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Two UK-registered fishing vessels have fished in the waters off Western Sahara during 2008 under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement. They are not operating currently in these waters.

The EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement was agreed in 2006 and sets out the terms for which UK and other European fishing vessels may fish in the waters off the coast of Western Sahara. The agreement does not prejudice the issue of the status of Western Sahara, which the UK regards as undetermined pending UN efforts to find a resolution. Nor does the agreement represent recognition of Morocco's sovereignty over the maritime waters off Western Sahara.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliament: Security

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which office is responsible for the security of materials kept in the places of work assigned to hon. Members on the Parliamentary Estate. [247040]

Nick Harvey: Executive responsibility for the security of the Parliamentary Estate rests with the office of the Serjeant at Arms. Every individual who works in the House of Commons is responsible for care of personal property and official property in their place of work. Advice on office security is available through the Serjeant at Arms from the police crime prevention officer.

More detailed procedures for handling sensitive personal data and material are outlined in the publication "Data Protection Act 1988: Advice for Members' Offices":

http://dfaweb.parliament.uk/members/publications/membersguide.pdf

TRANSPORT

Humber Bridge Toll: VAT

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the reduction in the rate of value added tax will have on the level of the Humber Bridge toll in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [247320]

Paul Clark: The Humber bridge was built under local authority-promoted legislation and is managed by a board made up of local authorities. It is, therefore, exempt from VAT.

Transport: Crime

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many crimes were reported to British Transport Police in *(a)* England, *(b)* London, *(c)* each London borough and *(d)* each London (i) underground, (ii) mainline and (iii) interchange station of (A) violence against the person, (B) sexual offences, (C) theft of passenger property and (D) robbery in each of the last five years, broken down by sex of the victim; and whether the crime was reported by a member of (1) the public and (2) rail staff in each case. [247148]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police,
25 Camden Road,
London NW1 9LN.
E-mail: parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247338]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not operate any public service 0844/0845 numbers.

Radio Frequencies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on *(a)* the UK's obligations arising from membership of the International Telecommunication Union and *(b)* the provisions of its regulations relating to harmful radio interference; and if he will make a statement. [242440]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

BERR have received one representation on the UK's membership of the International Telecommunications Union and the provisions of the Radio Regulations relating to harmful radio interference, which was received from the hon. Member for South Staffordshire (Sir Patrick Cormack) on a constituents complaint regarding interference issues relating to power-line adaptors.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps, in accordance with the International Telecommunications Union regulations on harmful radio interference, to ensure that the operation of electrical apparatus or installations, including power and telecommunications distribution networks, does not cause harmful interference to any radio communications service, with particular reference to international shortwave broadcasting and amateur radio; and if he will make a statement. [242441]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is a specialised agency of the United Nations with responsibility for information and communication technologies. The ITU Constitution is one of the basic texts of the organisation and this describes its function in relation to interference. The Constitution defines the role of the ITU in the prevention of harmful interference between radio stations of different countries. This is achieved through a process of management of radio frequencies, and orbital positions and characteristics of satellites. In rare cases where interference does occur, the ITU coordinates efforts to eliminate harmful interference between radio stations of different countries.

The Radio Regulations determine the level of protection from harmful interference which one country may claim from another through a process of allocating frequency bands to radio communication services. The ITU maintains a system of registration of frequency use and the rights to protection of a given service are determined by a combination of compliance with the allocation table, registration with the ITU, and the sharing arrangements between services allocated in the same band.

Due to the nature of short wave broadcasting and amateur radio, received signals are often weak and susceptible to local interference—in particular, from the wide range of modern electronic equipment to be found in the typical domestic environment.

Rescue Services: Telecommunications

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the *(a)* effect and *(b)* cost of introducing administered incentive pricing for radio frequencies on the Royal National Lifeboat Institute service. [245185]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

As part of their consultation on proposals to introduce administered incentive pricing for maritime and aeronautical radio, Ofcom have stated that they expect RNLI's licence fees to fall compared to the current level.

As such, the effect on RNLI is likely to be a reduction in their licensing costs.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy: EDF Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on

British Energy: EDF, if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreements made with EDF requiring it to release any British Energy sites. [242554]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have put a copy of the agreements made by HMG and the NDA with EDF relating to the disposal of British Energy sites in the Libraries of the House.

British Energy: Invesco

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2133W, on British Energy: EDF, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the meeting held with Invesco. [242553]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No. I can say that the meeting with Invesco was held at the request of Invesco, the second largest shareholder in British Energy after HMG. There was no agenda, nor was a formal minute taken. Invesco and HMG expressed their respective views about a possible takeover offer for British Energy by EDF. The details of what was discussed are commercially confidential.

Energy: Disadvantaged

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to require energy companies to inform customers about assistance available to vulnerable groups in their social tariff schemes; and if he will make a statement. [245070]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Suppliers agreed at the Fuel Poverty Summit organised by Ofgem in April to provide greater visibility of their offers. Following this Ofgem have worked with the suppliers to ensure that information about their social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility, is available on all the suppliers' websites.

Energy suppliers have committed to collectively spend £100 million this year, rising to £125 million next year and £150 million by 2011 on social assistance. In order to meet this commitment to Government suppliers need to inform their customers about the assistance available to vulnerable groups through their social tariff scheme.

Expenditure on suppliers' social assistance is monitored by Ofgem and early indications from suppliers to them is that since this time last year the numbers of customer accounts on social tariffs have at least doubled and will exceed the 600,000 customer accounts originally suppliers estimated that would benefit this winter which is a good indication of the level of awareness of the assistance suppliers offer.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with energy suppliers on the introduction of social tariffs for *(a)* domestic fuel oil and *(b)* liquid petroleum gas. [241471]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Suppliers of domestic oil and liquid petroleum gas serve a small but important market and are significantly more numerous than those supplying mains gas and electricity. The Government have not held discussions about social programmes with these companies.

The big six gas and electricity suppliers offer energy efficiency measures as part of their statutory obligations under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) scheme. Customers who use domestic oil or liquid petroleum gas to heat their homes can benefit from these programmes offered by their electricity suppliers.

In addition, mains gas continues to be cheaper and more convenient than other heating fuels. The Government have encouraged the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) to incentivise the large gas distribution networks to provide connections to households in deprived communities. Under the 2008-13 Gas Distribution Price Control, Ofgem has introduced incentivisation measures that should provide at least 20,000 connections in 400 communities.

Nuclear Power: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his statement of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 125WH, on nuclear industry finance, what consultations his Department conducted on the insurance arrangements for the management of Sellafield. [244590]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. Like insurance arrangements for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's 18 other sites, those for Sellafield are a matter for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the site licence company.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243712]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's advertising expenditure in the 2007-08 financial year, excluding agencies and executive NDPBs, was £454,075. The main advertising campaigns funded included public information campaigns concerning fireworks safety, vehicle theft and unknown callers.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government" and the accompanying document "Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action"; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245368]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has had a senior information risk owner (SIRO) appointed at director level and a member of the departmental board since 2003.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental marketing, how much his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies have spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [243543]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) spent £454,075 on advertising during the 2007-08 financial year. The NIO's agencies recorded total expenditure of £213,518 on advertising during this period. The main advertising campaigns funded included public information campaigns concerning fireworks safety, vehicle theft and unknown callers.

Information for the NIO's executive non-departmental bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives.

Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 departmental report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1209W, on departmental marketing, what advertisements were funded during 2007-08. [243544]

Mr. Woodward: The high volume of transactions within the Department's advertising expenditure codes means that details of all the advertisements funded during 2007-08 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the main advertising campaigns funded included fireworks safety, vehicle theft and unknown callers.

Departmental Television

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, from where the televisions were purchased; how many of the televisions *(a)* had (i) built-in freeview receivers (ii) digital receivers and *(b)* were widescreen, *(c)* were LCD and (d) were high definition. [243453]

Mr. Woodward: Five televisions were purchased from approved contracts for electrical supplies. All five of these are widescreen and LCD, and three of the five have built in freeview digital receivers and are also HD ready.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, which channels his Department pays for. [243455]

Mr. Woodward: In addition to BBC channels, paid for through license fees, the Department also subscribes to Sky and Setanta packages.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on television, how much his Department's *(a)* agencies and *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies have spent on (i) televisions and (ii) receiving digital television in the last 12 months. [244056]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office's Agencies spent £5,452 on purchasing televisions and £300 on receiving digital television in the 2007-08 financial year.

Information for the Northern Ireland Office's executive non-departmental bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives.

Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 departmental report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Electronic Equipment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on electronic equipment, how much his Department and its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on electronic equipment in the last 12 months. [243436]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) spent £24,603 on electronic equipment during the 2007-08 financial year. This figure only includes non-capital items as electronic equipment costing more than £1,000 could be captured only at disproportionate cost.

The NIO's Agencies recorded total expenditure of £433,511 on electronic equipment during this period, this figure is made up as follows:

Agency	*Expenditure (£)*
Northern Ireland Prison Service[1]	405,996
Forensic Science Agency Northern Ireland	4,679
Compensation Agency[1]	20,286
Youth Justice Agency	2,550

[1] These agencies are able to produce capital items within their figures and include electronic goods such as X-ray scanners, telecommunications and radio equipment.

Information for the NIO's executive non-departmental bodies is an operational matter for each of the bodies, who operate independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write to the respective chief executives.

Details of the NIO's non-departmental public bodies can be found in the NIO 2008 departmental report:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/northern_ireland_office_departmental_report_2008.pdf.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Defence Equipment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the issue of mercury-tipped ammunition to regular British troops serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [246604]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In accordance with The Hague convention of 1899 (Declaration III), ratified by the UK on 30 August 1907, the MOD does not procure or use mercury-tipped ammunition.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's estimate was in 2006 of the duration of the incursion of British troops into Helmand province; and what his current estimate is. [245485]

Mr. Hutton: When the then Defence Secretary announced our deployment to Helmand on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1532, it was described as a three-year deployment.

However, we have always made clear that we would keep the commitment of UK forces under review.

As the Prime Minister said in his 12 December 2007 statement, and has been made clear subsequently, the UK's strategy for Afghanistan is long-term and based on a comprehensive approach to security, political, social and economic development. We are therefore planning to maintain forces in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future.

Armed Forces: Bereavement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps his Department takes to assist those who have lost an immediate relative in the armed forces to claim bereavement entitlement; [246891]

(2) what the bereavement entitlement for families of service personnel is. [246892]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The next of kin of all those who die in military service are allocated a services visiting officer who will provide long-term support and act as a focal point for the family in obtaining specialist advice and assistance from various service organisations and civilian agencies. The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) Veterans Welfare Service works closely with the visiting officer to make immediate contact with the next of kin and to ensure information on entitlement is made available promptly. Where there is a spouse or partner, a welfare officer from the SPVA will visit him/her with the visiting officer within 15 days to provide help and advice in completing claims, where appropriate, for an armed forces pension or a claim under the armed forces compensation scheme, as well as to offer general advice on state benefits and welfare matters. Where there is no spouse or partner, the SPVA writes to the next of kin or any other individual known to be dependant on the deceased, through the families visiting officer within a week of the death, providing them with a guidance booklet on what to do after death which includes advice on state benefits. However the services of SPVA Welfare are not only restricted to immediate dependants, such as a widow, as they will also visit other family members, e.g., parents, if requested and this is normally arranged through the visiting officer.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed services recruitment centres there were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008, broken down by service. [245116]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Both in 1997 and 2008 there were 39 tri-service armed forces careers offices (AFCOs): six of which were/are sponsored by the Royal Navy, 22 by the Army, and 11 sponsored by the Royal Air Force. These AFCOs are supplemented by 94 satellite recruiting offices, the majority of which are Army owned, and a handful operated on a bi-service basis.

Armed Forces: United States

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many British nationals have been injured by unmanned drones operated by US forces since January 2002; [246303]

(2) how many *(a)* British citizens and *(b)* UK residents have been killed by unmanned drones operated by US forces since January 2002. [245445]

Mr. Hutton: We cannot confirm whether any British citizens or UK residents have been killed in any such incidents.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the effect on the defence procurement budget of the reduction in the value of sterling in the last six months. [243254]

Mr. Hutton: Fluctuations in the value of sterling have had a significant effect over the last six months on a range of defence equipment acquisition projects, though the precise aggregate financial impact of these changes over that period could be provided only at disproportionate cost, given that foreign exchange is only one of a number of factors leading to cost variations in projects. Across 2008-09 as a whole, however, the Defence Equipment and Support organisation estimates a pressure of some £130 million from foreign exchange movements. The Department's in-year financial management process takes into account overall cost changes, including within equipment acquisition, to ensure that the defence programme remains within available resources.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department intends to spend on the purchase of consultancy services, with reference to Standard Chart of Account code 51401400, in financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [245088]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department's current 2008-09 forecast for expenditure on the purchase of consultancy services against the Standard Chart of Account code 51401400 which includes management consultancy of business performance, financial and accountancy services, corporate governance and audit is £104 million.

The Department's plans for future consultancy services are currently being examined in the Planning Round 2009.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, "Data Handling Procedures in Government" and the accompanying document "Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action;" and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245359]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The director general information (a two star/senior civil servant pay band 2) was discharging the role of senior information risk owner (SIRO) by late 2003 and formally acquired the role and title, as directed by the permanent under secretary, in response to the February 2004 request from the Cabinet Secretary for all Departments to make such an appointment. The DG information post has since been re-titled chief information officer (CIO). Following the publication of the Data Handling Procedures in Government report the CIO was reconfirmed in the role of SIRO. The SIRO leads on information risk issues at the Defence Operating Board and is called to the Defence Board as and when required.

Departmental Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what monetary value his Department assigns to one life in its economic appraisals of *(a)* troop safety measures and *(b)* defence equipment; and if he will make a statement. [245680]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Since the main benefits of Departmental investment in the form of defence capability are not capable of being expressed in monetary terms, the overwhelming majority of MOD investment appraisals use a cost effectiveness approach. This involves a comparison of the whole life costs of alternative options to deliver the same stated defence benefit, without recourse to specific monetary values of life. There have been no economic appraisals supporting business cases of expenditure proposals subject to the Department's central approval processes where monetary values have been applied to life. However, should it be necessary to directly evaluate the costs and benefits of safety measures the Department's approach to applying monetary values to life and safety is set out in Joint Services Publication (JSP) 507 "MOD Guide to Investment Appraisal and Evaluation". This is available at

http://www.mod.uk/defenceinternet/aboutdefence/corporatepublications/policystrategyandplanning/jsp507modguidetoinvestmentappraisalandevaluation.htm.

The approach follows HM Treasury guidance and is the same as that used by other Government Departments, in particular the Department for Transport and the Health and Safety Executive.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to box 6.4 of the pre-Budget report (CM 7484), if he will place in the Library a copy of the terms of reference of the reviews he intends to undertake of the *(a)* Met Office, *(b)* Oil and Pipeline Agency and *(c)* Defence Storage and Distribution Agency. [245201]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The terms of reference of the reviews on the Met Office, the Oil and Pipeline Agency and the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency have not yet been finalised. The scope of the study which will form the basis for the terms of reference was announced in the pre-Budget report. This indicated that the studies would consider the potential for alternative business models, commercialisation, new market opportunities and, where appropriate, alternatives to public ownership. Gerry Grimstone is working with MOD and shareholder Executive to take forward this work, and progress will be reported in Budget 2009.

Once the terms of reference have been approved, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier aircraft were operating in Iraq at the latest date for which figures are available. [242823]

Mr. Hutton: The last eight RAF Harrier aircraft to deploy on Operation Telic were withdrawn on 6 May 2003.

Military Aircraft: Warships

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans are in place to ensure that the armed forces will have a continuing aircraft carrier capability during the transition between the withdrawal of service of the CVS carriers and the entry into service of the CVF carriers. [245103]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The transition from the existing to future aircraft carriers will be managed coherently and we are currently assessing the modalities for achieving this.

Nuclear Weapons: Testing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long the 2005 decontamination exercise on Kiritimati took; and how much the exercise cost, broken down by category of expenditure. [246875]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The contract works on the island commenced during January 2005 and the last package of waste left the Island in May 2008, although most of the scrap metal had been removed by November 2006.

The costs of removing the waste (not necessarily decontamination) currently amount to £7 million broken down as follows (figures are rounded):

	£ million
General items (insurance, mobilisation, provision of compound)	3.0
Whole island tasks (removal of asbestos, radiological survey and known radium luminised dials)	0.5
Waste removal (vehicles and plant, tanks, boilers drums and bitumen spills, asphalt plant, coral crushing plant, and bunkers)	2.5
Shipping and disposal	1.0

Rescue Services: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent plans his Department has made to change numbers of *(a)* helicopters and *(b)* search and rescue crew personnel at search and rescue centres. [246931]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have made no recent plans to change the number of helicopters available for search and rescue. It is currently planned that RAF search and rescue crews will reduce by four over the next two years.

Rescue Services: Private Sector

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress the Government has made on plans to invite private companies to bid to operate search and rescue services. [246909]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The competition to bring together the Search and Rescue capability currently provided by the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency into one harmonised service continues, with two industrial consortia (AirKnight and Soteria) actively engaged.

The main investment decision will be made following further development of the bids through evaluation and dialogue to ensure that the consortia are able to provide the required capability and service levels through life.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245713]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is MOD policy and a legal requirement to supply materials in alternative formats if requested. The MOD consults with the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) and works closely with the Employers Forum on Disability and the EHRC to ensure it meets the accessibility needs of disabled people. The Departmental Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008-11 contains an undertaking to ensure that all disabled employees and members of the public are able to access our publications in a way that meets their needs.

Weapons: Theft

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many weapons of each type have *(a)* been stolen and *(b)* gone missing from armed forces bases in each of the last five years; [246124]

(2) how many weapons of each type have *(a)* gone missing and *(b)* been stolen from the Army in each of the last five years. [246125]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The following table sets out details of Ministry of Defence firearms recorded as lost/stolen for the last five calendar years, 2004-08 and include bases both home and abroad. The figures represent the latest available from the Service Police Crime Bureau.

Weapon statistics 2004-08

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Weapon type	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*
Pistol	10	10	5	3	8	10	11	16	20	9
Rifle	15	3	9	7	14	19	14	8	14	16
Machine guns	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	0
Totals	25	13	14	10	22	35	25	24	37	25

Figures by individual service could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place to prevent weapons used by British servicemen and women abroad being stolen and returned to the UK to be used illegally; and whether he has plans to improve those procedures. [246126]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* MOD takes every reasonable precaution to ensure all weapons are controlled and stored securely. Comprehensive records are maintained to enable accurate accounting and are subject to both regular and spot checks. We also have specific operations designed to deter those personnel from all three services who may be tempted to illegally import items and also to identify those who transgress. This includes a combined information campaign and a physical search of all equipment including personal baggage, comfy boxes etc. returning to peacetime locations. All security measures are subject to continuous review, security surveys and audits.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Devon

Nick Harvey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were declared bankrupt in North Devon in each year since 1997. [246698]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of bankruptcies in north Devon in each year from 2000 to 2007, derived from postcodes provided by bankrupt individuals[1, 2]. Earlier years figures are not available.

[1] Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the bankrupt individual provides. The use of this in assigning an individual to a borough is thus only as reliable as the postcode information provided.

[2] In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

	Bankruptcies in north Devon
2000	43
2001	49
2002	61
2003	85
2004	135
2005	171
2006	160
2007	160

Bankruptcy: Self-Employed

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bankruptcy orders for self-employed individuals he estimates have occurred in 2008-09. [246171]

Mr. McFadden: For 2008-09 the latest available number of self-employed individuals going bankrupt is for the period April to June 2008. In this period there were 1,828 self-employed bankrupts.

Self-employed figures for this period and earlier years can also be found on the internet here:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation//statistics/200811/table2a.htm

Business: Postal Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will seek to increase the cost charge for private companies on bulk mail deliveries. [245819]

Mr. McFadden: The price that other postal operators are charged to access Royal Mail's delivery network is a matter for negotiation between those postal operators and Royal Mail.

If agreement cannot be reached through negotiation, it is the responsibility of Postcomm, the independent postal regulator, to determine an appropriate access price.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in departmental buildings in the last 12 months. [246592]

Mr. McFadden: During the calendar year 1 January to 31 December 2008 a total of £391,000 (inc. VAT) was spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to BERR Ministers.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243581]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243492]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* BERR is currently collecting data from other Government Departments and from its own delivery partners on performance in making payments to suppliers within 10 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice. Although complete figures are not yet available, Government Departments and public bodies have embraced payment within 10 days and are working to implement this across their own organisation and to encourage suppliers to pass on these terms.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246991]

Mr. McFadden: From the central records available there are seven 0845 telephone numbers services administered by the Department for public use.

I have asked the chief executives of the Department's agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has one 0845 number, (0845 757 3991), used as first-line support for customers using the Companies House Direct search service.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 January 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (2008/446), how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by (a) his Department and (b) its executive agencies for public access to services.

The Insolvency Service has three 0845 lines. These are; The Insolvency Service Enquiry Line, The Redundancy Payments Helpline and The Enforcement Hotline.

Insolvency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses he estimates have been the subject of liquidation or other insolvency procedures during 2008-09. [246170]

Mr. McFadden: For 2008-09 the latest available number of companies in liquidation is for the period April to September 2008. In this period there were 7,748 liquidations.

Liquidation figures for this period and earlier years can also be found on the internet here:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/200811/tablel.htm

Internet

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent meetings his Department has had with internet service providers on websites which advocate anorexic or bulimic practices. [246755]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The Department meets with Internet Service Providers on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual interest. I am not aware that the subject of websites that advocate anorexic or bulimic practices has arisen in recent meetings.

The new UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) will unite over 100 organisations from the public and private sector working with Government to deliver recommendations from Dr. Tanya Byron's report: 'Safer Children in a Digital World'.

Reporting directly to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, the Council will help to improve the regulation and education around internet use, tackling problems around online bullying, safer search features, and violent video games. This unprecedented coalition of experts and organisations will ensure that parents and young people have a voice in the development of a Child Internet Safety Strategy, to be delivered in 2009.

The strategy will:

establish a comprehensive public information and awareness and child internet safety campaign across Government and industry including a 'one-stop shop' on child internet safety;

provide specific measures to support vulnerable children and young people, such as taking down illegal internet sites that promote harmful behaviour;

promote responsible advertising to children online; and

establish voluntary codes of practice for user-generated content sites, making such sites commit to take down inappropriate content within a given time.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to encourage internet service providers to practise regulation of websites which advocate anorexic or bulimic practices. [246757]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The new UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) will unite over 100 organisations from the public and private sector working with Government to deliver recommendations from Dr. Tanya Byron's report: 'Safer Children in a Digital World'.

The Council will be a powerful union of some of our key players giving support to parents and guidance to children as they come more and more accustomed to the virtual world—it will also give families, teachers and most importantly children and young people the ability to input experiences and concerns. The UK is a world leader on internet safety for children and I look forward to others adopting this partnership approach.

Reporting directly to the Prime Minister, the Council will help to improve the regulation and education around internet use. This unprecedented coalition of experts and organisations will ensure that parents and young people have a voice in the development of a Child Internet Safety Strategy, to be delivered in 2009.

The strategy will:

establish a comprehensive public information and awareness and child internet safety campaign across Government and industry including a 'one-stop shop' on child internet safety;

provide specific measures to support vulnerable children and young people, such as taking down illegal internet sites that promote harmful behaviour;

promote responsible advertising to children online; and

establish voluntary codes of practice for user-generated content sites, making such sites commit to take down inappropriate content within a given time.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has received from *(a)* Ofcom, *(b)* mobile telephone operators and *(c)* other parties on the original timetable outlined by Ofcom to ensure the time taken to move a telephone number between mobile telephone operators is reduced from two days to two hours for UK consumers by September 2009; [244972]

(2) what assessment he has made of the recent Competition Appeals Tribunal ruling on mobile number portability and the consequent delay in the move to faster and more efficient mobile telephone portability for consumers; [244973]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on mobile telephone users of Ofcom's original deadline of September 2009 for two hour recipient-led mobile number portability not being met; [244974]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on ease of transfer for consumers from one mobile telephone operator to another. [244975]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The Department has regular discussions with Ofcom, mobile telephone operators and other parties on a range of telecommunications issues including on mobile portability.

The Department has made no assessments of the recent Competition Appeals Tribunal ruling on this issue or of the impact of this on UK mobile consumers. These are matters for Ofcom which, following the ruling, has initiated an internal policy review to identify what, if any, changes should be made to ensure that number portability arrangements meet the needs of UK consumers, in terms of facilitating consumer choice and effective

competition. The review is intended to undertake as thorough a stock-take of porting in the UK as possible, and will continue into 2009. Ofcom is committed to ensuring that consumers can switch in a competitive communications market with ease. The ability for consumers to be able to keep their telephone numbers if they so choose, and to do this quickly, easily and with confidence is a key part of this goal.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246352]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not keep a central record of the number of former prisoners it employs. To provide the information requested would involve disproportionate cost.

The Department's policy on employing former prisoners is that a criminal record is not an automatic bar to disqualify an individual from appointment. While recognising the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, and taking into account the individual circumstances of the case, the Department will decide whether any criminal record will disqualify an individual from appointment.

Regional Planning and Development: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work has been undertaken by the regional development agency coastal towns network in the last 12 months. [244400]

Mr. McFadden: The RDA-led Coastal Towns Network aims to improve coordination between central, regional and local government in the development of policy and delivery, at a regional level, of interventions in coastal towns, providing a focus on good practice dissemination, and identification of barriers to policy implementation. It brings together representatives from all the RDAs except AWM, and includes central government departments, agencies and local authorities with an interest in the costal towns' agenda. It was formed earlier this year.

RDAs have also been working in co-operation with DCMS and CABE to coordinate engagement with the Sea Change programme (DCMS capital investment fund for seaside resorts to improve the arts, public space, cultural assets and heritage projects). The RDAs in partnership with local authorities are identifying suitable transformational projects to be taken forward by each region either individually or by matching with other funding streams, such as Single Programme, ERDF or Heritage Lottery Funding.

Set out in the list are examples of activities and interventions by RDAs designed to support coastal towns in their regions. More detailed activities, by region, can be found on relevant RDA Website or the RDA National Secretariat website.

NWDA

In the North West, NWDA produced a North West coastal strategy "A New Vision for North West Coastal Resorts" in 2003 which provides the framework for agency support for coastal towns in the region. Specific activity in the last 12 months includes:

In Southport, Completion of the Lord Street Area improvement initiative where the RDA contributed £2.6 million in total; ongoing support for the refurbishment of Southport Floral Hall and Theatre to be completed in March 2009 with a total RDA contribution of £4.4 million; and support for the acquisition of Pleasureland amusement park by Sefton Metropolitan borough council with a total RDA contribution of £2.7 million.

In Morecambe, NWDA has signed a Resort Action Plan with the local authority to provide the framework for Morecambe's regeneration including contributing funding to the restoration of the Midland Hotel, feasibility work for the refurbishment of Morecambe Winter Gardens and is in discussion with Lancaster city council about further plans for the continued regeneration of Morecambe.

In Blackpool, NWDA has been providing ongoing support for ReBlackpool, the Urban Regeneration Company and the main delivery mechanism for Blackpool's regeneration.

One North East

In Blyth, the RDA has invested significantly in an internationally recognised centre of new and renewable energy research (NaREC) and has stimulated a cluster of innovative manufacturing around this critical new economic sector.

In other areas, such as Seaham, a former colliery town with significant economic challenges, the RDA has invested in place based regeneration and supported the attraction of businesses through business accommodation projects and public realm investment.

SEEDA

SEEDA, with partners, produced a Coastal South East Framework in 2008 that is reflected within both the Regional Economic Strategy and Corporate Plan of the agency. This identifies a number of actions to support regional and local action including:

Identifying a number of the regions coastal areas as priority places for investment and growth: Hastings, Margate and Dover for major regeneration, whilst Portsmouth and Urban South Hampshire is one of the initial MAAs and a Diamond for Investment and Growth.

Brighton and Hove, West and East Sussex and Thames Gateway Kent are identified as a Diamond and a potential MAA.

Supporting new university campuses in Hastings, Folkestone and Bognor Regis; and major infrastructure projects in Hastings, Southampton and Chatham Maritime. Pam Alexander, the CE, Chairs the Margate Renewal Partnership, and the agency has restructured, strengthening the Area Teams, to support work in priority places.

SWRDA

In the south-west the RDA is:

Investing £6.6 million into a £11.3 million programme of public realm work improvements along Weymouth seafront. The intention is to target the key gateways onto the seafront, create new high quality spaces and routes along the seafront and replace/upgrade existing buildings. Weymouth and Portland is the Olympic sailing venue host and the improvements will upgrade the image of the resort in time for the Olympics and provide a legacy for the town post 2012.

Yorkshire Forward

The refurbishment of the Bridlington Spa Complex was completed early 2008 and discussions are continuing with regard to the redevelopment of the Marina.

Cleethorpes Renaissance Programme: work has been completed on the Lakeside Arena and is in the process of commissioning a strategic development framework for the whole of Cleethorpes.

Hornsea has been prioritised as part of the Rural Enterprise Programme and the RDA is working with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hornsea Town Council to develop an area specific investment plan.

EEDA

Contributed £6 million in Kings Lynn to a £23 million programme to support the comprehensive redevelopment of 50ha of Brownfield land for a mixed use development scheme. Project involves the construction of new link road, associated infrastructure, new homes and integration with the town.

In Great Yarmouth, ongoing support for construction of breakwaters and associated maritime access works to form a new outer harbour for Great Yarmouth providing roll-on/roll-off facilities for freight and passenger services and general cargo handling;

In Lowestoft, 1st East provided core funding for regeneration plans for the waterfront areas of the town;

Ipswich Waterfront supporting a scheme to upgrade and bring back into fuller public use the dockside roadways which lie within the conservation area and are not part of the public highway.

In Southend, supporting the Renaissance Southend programme by co-funding the town centre Area Action Plan (AAP) and the seafront AAP as part of the Local Development Framework process.

EMDA

Allocated £2 million, under the LEADER approach element of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), to the East Lindsay coastal action zone and is working with Boston Borough and South Holland District Councils to develop their RDPE programme;

Provided capital funding to public realm work in Mablethorpe; and

Working with the owners of Fantasy Island theme park at Skegness on their continued development plans.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to exempt the Royal National Lifeboat Institution from payment of radio licence fees; and if he will make a statement. [240291]

Mr. McFadden: RNLI pay Ofcom an annual licence fee for their use of VHF radios. As RNLI is a charity whose object is the safety of human life in an emergency, it currently receives a 50 per cent. reduction to its licence fee and there are no plans to remove or reduce this discount.

The Government commissioned Professor Martin Cave to conduct an independent audit of radio spectrum holdings. All the recommendations were accepted by the Government including the agreed Government policy that users should pay market rates to use spectrum, to incentivise more efficient use of spectrum that is an increasingly scarce resource.

Ofcom is now implementing this policy and is considering the response received to their consultation document "Applying spectrum pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical sectors". This allowed those affected the opportunity to give their views to Ofcom on the proposals and any additional cost burdens.

During the consultation, concerns were expressed about the potential impact of the proposals on the licence fees to be paid by RNLI . As clarification, Ofcom have stated that under their proposals it is possible that RNLI's spectrum fees may actually fall compared to the current level.

Ofcom are now considering all the responses received to their consultation and undertaking an impact assessment about the effects of the proposals. This should include the impact on charities such as RNLI. Ofcom have said they will carry out a further consultation before any changes to VHF licence fees are introduced.

Unfair Practices: Credit

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many cases of unfair credit relationships have been brought in county courts since the implementation of the Consumer Credit Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [245429]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Courts Service does not collect data on actions commenced under particular Acts. Instead data are collected on the basis of the type of remedy sought, for example, specified/unspecified money claims or possession. Therefore I am unable to provide the information requested.

The Consumer Credit Act 2006 amends the Consumer Credit Act 1974. The 1974 Act set out the framework for regulating consumer credit supply and the hire of goods in the United Kingdom. In addition, the Act regulates the supply of credit and hiring of goods to individuals where the credit provided or payments for hire do not exceed a specified limit (currently £25,000). The Act further imposes a system of trading controls through regulation of both general business activities of traders that constitute the consumer credit and hire industry and controlling methods of seeking business. Control over agreements is done through the regulation of individual consumer credit or consumer hire agreements.

The aim of the Government's reform of the 1974 Act was to give further protection to consumers in addition to creating a fairer and more competitive credit market.

TREASURY

Christmas Bonus: Children

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the one-off payment of £70 for children with disabilities, announced in the Pre-Budget Statement of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 503, what estimate he has made of the number of disabled children eligible for the payment; and what estimate he has made of the total cost to the Treasury of these payments. [243884]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Around 300,000 disabled children are expected to be eligible for the Christmas bonus this financial year. We expect the total cost of the payments to this group, including the £60 extra payment on top of the regular £10 Christmas bonus, to be around £20 million.

Derbyshire Offshore: Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Financial Services Authority insisted that the Derbyshire Building Society consult its depositors in respect of the sale of its Isle of Man subsidiary to Landsbanki; [246800]

(2) whether the Financial Services Authority insisted that existing depositors should have the right to withdraw their deposits as a condition of the sale of the Derbyshire Building Society's Isle of Man subsidiary to Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. [246801]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W.

Economic Situation: EU Action

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the EU Economic Recovery Plan agreed on 12 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [245915]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcomes the Commission's European Economic Recovery Plan.

Part of the Plan is to increase the overall EC budget by €5 billion in 2010 and 2011. The UK's current pre-abatement financing share of the EC budget is 15.8 per cent.

Peacekeeping Operations: Afghanistan

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total cost has been of the British operations in Afghanistan in each year since 2001; and what the anticipated costs are for each of the next five years. [245404]

Yvette Cooper: Details of the costs of military operations, including in Afghanistan, are published annually in the Ministry of Defence's annual report and accounts and in the Department's parliamentary supply estimates.

Forecasts of operational costs in future years are not published

Portman Building Society: Landsbanki

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether the Financial Services Authority insisted that the Portman Building Society consult its depositors in respect of the sale of its Guernsey subsidiary to Landsbanki; [246796]

(2) whether the Financial Services Authority insisted that existing depositors should have the right to withdraw their deposits as a condition of the sale of the Portman Building Society's Guernsey subsidiary to Landsbanki; [246797]

(3) what measures the Financial Services Authority took to safeguard depositors in the Portman Building Society's Guernsey subsidiary. [246798]

Ian Pearson: Portman Building Society ("Portman") did not sell its Guernsey deposit taking subsidiary (Portman Channel Islands Ltd.) to Landsbanki.

Portman sold this subsidiary in April 2007 to the Scarborough Building Society which renamed the company Scarborough Channel Islands Ltd. Scarborough Building Society continues to own this subsidiary.

Public Sector: Pensions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the affordability of public sector pension schemes; and if he will make a statement. [245817]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury receives a wide range of representations from various sources on different aspects of public sector pension schemes. The latest Government projections, published in the Long Term Public Finance Report (LTPFR) alongside the March 08 Budget, show that expenditure on public service pensions should remain a relatively small and sustainable fraction of GDP.

Tax Havens: Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost of the research to explore customer experiences of the Offshore Disclosure Facility; [245836]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost of each consultant interview under the research to explore customer experiences of the Offshore Disclosure Facility; [245837]

(3) how many customers are to be interviewed as part of the research to explore customer experiences of the Offshore Disclosure Facility; [245838]

(4) what the purpose of the research to explore customer experiences of the Offshore Disclosure Facility is; and if he will make a statement. [245839]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 12 January 2009]*: HMRC are not proceeding with this research study. A review of the proposed study has suggested that it is unlikely to meet its aims.

The Offshore Disclosure Facility in 2007 led to the collection of £400 million.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many *(a)* carers and *(b)* carers providing more than (i) 20 hours and (ii) 35 hours per week of care are receiving incapacity benefit; and if he will make a statement; [246752]

(2) how many *(a)* carers and *(b)* carers providing more than (i) 20 hours and (ii) 35 hours per week of care who are receiving incapacity benefit also have underlying entitlement to carer's allowance; and if he will make a statement; [246753]

Jonathan Shaw: It is estimated that the number of adult carers in receipt of incapacity benefit is 200,000. Of these it is estimated that 100,000 provide more than 20 hours of care per week.

Sample sizes are too small to yield reliable results for the number of adult carers in receipt of incapacity benefit providing more than 35 hours of care per week.

The information required to determine underlying entitlement for carer's allowance is not collected.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households.

2. Data for 2006-07 were collected between April 2006 and March 2007.

3. In the Family Resources Survey carers are defined as 'people involved in the provision of any regular service or help to someone in or outside their household who is sick, disabled or elderly'.

4. 35 hours is the minimum hours of care that need to be supplied for a single individual to qualify for Carer's Allowance.

5. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

6. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2006-07

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many reported assaults there were on staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of his Department's agencies in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [245452]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP takes the safety of its staff seriously. In 2006 we undertook a review of our unacceptable customer behaviour procedures and introduced a "zero tolerance" approach, encouraging staff to report all incidents however minor.

The Department serves over 20 million customers. Every working day we interview over 45,000 customers as we help them prepare for work, we visit 3,000 people in their own home and answer over 300,000 telephone calls to our help lines.

The following table provides the information requested for DWP reported assaults broken down to show each of the Department's Agencies. Traditionally, DWP collect and report assault data by financial year rather than calendar year. The information is broken down into three distinct types of assault: actual, attempted and verbal (abuse and threats).

April 2005 to March 2006

DWP by business	*Actual*	*Attempted*	*Verbal*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	399	1,134	8,820	10,353
The Pensions Service	0	0	29	29
Disability and Carers Service	0	0	43	43
Child Support Agency	0	0	1	1
DWP Total	399	1,134	8,893	10,426

April 2006 to March 2007

DWP by business	*Actual*	*Attempted*	*Verbal*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	583	1,017	12,640	14,240
The Pensions Service	1	0	29	30
Disability and Carers Service	0	0	1	1
Child Support Agency	0	0	8	8
DWP total	584	1,017	12,678	14,279

April 2007 to March 2008

DWP by business	*Actual*	*Attempted*	*Verbal*	*Total*
Jobcentre Plus	453	1,156	13,359	14,968
The Pensions Service	0	0	27	27
Disability and Carers Service	0	0	57	57
Child Support Agency	0	0	21	21
DWP total	453	1,156	13,464	15,073

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will ensure that his Department does not enter into contracts with faith-based organisations which have policies and procedures which do not comply with equalities legislation; [244673]

(2) what his Department's policy is on whether contracts may be awarded to faith-based organisations which engage the exemptions for religious organisations provided for by the *(a)* Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003 and *(b)* Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003; [243887]

(3) what measures are in place to ensure religious organisations working under contract with his Department do not discriminate in their employment practices on grounds of *(a)* religious belief or *(b)* sexual orientation. [243850]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a separate contract with an independent external organisation to check that providers have appropriate diversity and equality policies in place; these checks are made before contracts are awarded, and repeated annually thereafter.

Contracts are awarded in accordance with existing EU and UK law including those relevant to equality including faith and sexual orientation. Successful suppliers to the Department are required to act lawfully and in accordance with relevant legislation including any provisions regarding unlawful discrimination, and exceptions regarding genuine occupational requirements and proportionality. A potential supplier failing to agree to the terms of contract would not be successful at contract award.

The compliance of external providers with standards of diversity and equality is regularly monitored by my Department's contract management staff. Contracts can be terminated in the event of a serious breach of these standards.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244721]

Jonathan Shaw: In dealing with correspondence, the Department does not differentiate between letters and emails. However, no central record is held of the vast number of letters and e-mails the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies receives and deals with; this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' and peers' correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what encryption controls his Department has in respect of *(a)* portable data storage devices and *(b)* key databases. [240293]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has adopted appropriate industry best practice security controls, including encryption, in respect of its portable data storage devices and key databases. It is not in the public interest to describe those controls. I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department's customer information system was accredited to Government security standards in accordance with measures set out in the report Data Handling Procedures in Government: final Report and the document Cross Government Actions: Mandatory Minimum Measures. [245257]

Jonathan Shaw: The requirements for accreditation set out in the Data Handling Procedures in Government: Final Report, relate to new systems introduced after 1 July 2008. The Customer Information System was first accredited for compliance with the Department's Information System Security Standards in 2005 and is currently undergoing re-accreditation.

Departmental Fraud

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of internal fraud there have been in *(a)* each section of his Department and *(b)* each of his Department's agencies in each of the last five years. [245253]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not available in the exact format requested. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 804-05W. We are able to provide the breakdown of staff in each agency in 2003-04 and 2004-05 as set out in the following table. From 2005-06 onwards HM Treasury reporting requires details at departmental level only. This analysis is consistent with the way in which the Department reports to HM Treasury on internal fraud.

Business	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jobcentre Plus	73	40	—	—	—
Pension Service	7	6	—	—	—
Disability and Carers	7	1	—	—	—
Child Support Agency	4	2	—	—	—
Other	10	3	—	—	—
Total	101	52	170	144	172
Number of DWP employees	130,786	126,988	119,972	114,500	107,998

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* contractors with (i) each section of his Department and (ii) each of his Department's agencies have been disciplined for fraudulent activity in each of the last five years. [245254]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the numbers of *(a)* staff and *(b)* contractors with (i) each section of the Department for Work and Pensions and (ii) each of the Department's agencies that have been disciplined for fraudulent activity in each of the last five years is not available in the format requested.

The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

The Department for Work and Pensions records the numbers of staff disciplined for fraudulent activity under the general heading of "Fraud, Theft and Loss of DWP funds". No additional information has been recorded to break down this information further. To extract more detailed information from individual records under the category requested would be at disproportionate cost. The information provided in the following table shows the number of staff disciplined under the category "Fraud, Theft and Loss to DWP funds" since April 2007 by departmental agency.

The Department does not collect statistical data on employees working for the Department's contracted providers because they are not employees of the Department and disciplinary action is a matter for the contracting organisation as an employer. The Department does take action to recover any inappropriately claimed funding as a result of actions by contractors' staff, although no central records of this are kept.

Agency	*1 April 2007-31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008-17 December 2008*	*Agency total*
Corporate Centre	1	1	2
Pensions and Disability Carers Service	0	2	2
Jobcentre Plus	6	4	10
DWP total	7	7	14

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of his Department's computer systems use *(a)* real time and *(b)* batch interfaces for the transfer of data between departmental computer systems. [241308]

Jonathan Shaw: Most of the Department's IT Systems use both real time and batch interfaces for the transfer of data between its and other departments' computer systems.

It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of the applications and arrangements that govern data transfer. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 December 2008, *Official Report* column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* system maps, *(b)* user guides, *(c)* project initiation documents from the time of implementation, *(d)* system notes and *(e)* interface details/charts for financial and non-financial IT systems in place within (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [241416]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 December 2008]*: The Department has 149 major application systems, the documentation for which often contains information which may be prejudicial to the security of those systems and its disclosure would not be in the public interest. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 December 2008, *Official Report* column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243559]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days staff took as sick leave in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last three years for which figures are available; what the average number of days of sick leave per member of staff was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [245661]

Jonathan Shaw: Information held for the current and previous two years is contained in the following tables.

2008-09

Business	*Working days lost*	*Average working days lost per staff year*
Jobcentre Plus	643,445	9.7
Disability and Carers Service	52,429	9.6
The Pension Service	100,445	9.4
Other, including central directorates	73,781	6.8
DWP	870,100	9.3

2007-08

Business	*Working days lost*	*Average working days lost per staff year*
Jobcentre Plus	671,915	10.1
Disability and Carers Service	61,155	10.6
The Pension Service	112,953	9.7
Child Support Agency	126,607	12.4
Other, including central directorates	79,930	8.1
DWP	1,052,557	10.1

2006-07

Business	*Working days lost*	*Average working days lost per staff year*
Jobcentre Plus	803,900	11.1
Disability and Carers Service	68,841	12.1
The Pension Service	124,943	10.0
Child Support Agency	152,268	13.9
Other, including central directorates	106,265	9.8
DWP	1,256,157	11.1

Notes:
1. DWP is unable to report precise part year data for the current financial year because its computer system is configured to calculate sickness absence levels using a rolling 12 months' data. The figures for 2008-09 are therefore based on data from December 2007 (rather than April 2008) to November 2008 inclusive. November 2008 is the latest month for which figures are available.
2. Up to 2006-07, average absence levels per staff year were reported annually by the Cabinet Office. The average figures for 2006-07 derive from the report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service 2006-07". All other data in the tables, including those for working days lost, reflects information currently held on DWP's internal personnel computer system.
3. The averages shown are the average per full-time staff year, rather than per employee, to take account of part-time workers.
4. Any difference between the sum of the agency figures and the total for DWP is due to rounding.

Industrial Health and Safety

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the rate of under-reporting of workplace health and safety incidents in Scotland in the last five years. [244492]

Jonathan Shaw: In relation to the under reporting of workplace health and safety incidents in Scotland:

there is near 100 per cent. reporting of incidents resulting in fatalities;

the estimated proportion of reportable non-fatal injuries to employees in Scotland which were actually reported to HSE or to local authorities in the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 was 45 per cent. (95 per cent. confidence interval: 40 per cent. to 52 per cent.).

In addition to formal RIDDOR reports HSE receives information on incidents from a variety of other soufces.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Health and Safety Commission prosecutions there were against directors and managers of companies alleged to have committed health and safety breaches in each of the last five years, broken down by sector; and if he will make a statement. [245278]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise the need for robust enforcement of health and safety law, and prosecution of offenders where there is the supporting evidence and it is in the public interest to do so. Prosecution is one aspect of the current arrangements, involving a mix of legislation, enforcement and voluntary guidance, which serve to focus directors' and senior managers' attention on their responsibilities for health and safety, and to influence their behaviour.

Health and Safety Executive prosecutions in each of the last five years against individual directors and other officers and members of corporate bodies, via s.37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act, is given in the following table.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Guilty	13	6	8	17	8
Not guilty	2	2	3	0	0
Adjourned/ not concluded	0	0	0	5	2

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Withdrawn/ not taken	2	4	1	0	3
Total	17	12	12	22	13

A sector break-down is not readily available and its provision would involve a disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Expenditure

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure his Department has incurred in providing Jobcentre Plus services in each of the last 10 years, broken down by district. [241456]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much expenditure his Department has incurred in providing Jobcentre Plus services in each of the last 10 years, broken down by district. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The inception of Jobcentre Plus dates back to 2002 and so figures can only be provided from this date.

The costs of providing Jobcentre Plus services cannot be broken down by district. This is because a large proportion of our operating costs are not recorded at a district or regional level.

The net operating costs for Jobcentre Plus can be obtained from the Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts for each year. They are also shown in the attached table at annex A.

Annex A

£ billion

	Net administration costs	Net programme costs	Net operating costs
2002-03	2.95	0.90	3.85
2003-04	3.04	1.01	4.05
2004-05	3.15	1.09	4.24
2005-06	3.46	1.08	4.54
2006-07	3.54	0.95	4.49
2007-08	3.36	—	3.36

Notes:
1 Source of the above information is the Jobcentre Plus annual report and accounts for each year from 2002-3 to 2007-8.
2 Information is shown for each complete financial year since Jobcentre Plus started in 2002.
3 Figures are quoted in nominal terms only.
4 From April 2007, accounting responsibility for employment programmes moved to Welfare Work Equality Group (WWEG) within DWP.

Jobcentre Plus: Resignations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff have left their posts in Jobcentre Plus after a period of sick leave in each month in each of the last five years. [241450]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed jobseeker's allowance (JSA) in each quarter since 1997; and what proportion in each quarter had been claiming JSA for *(a)* between 0 and 13 weeks, *(b)* between 13 and 26 weeks, *(c)* between 26 and 39 weeks, *(d)* between 39 and 52 weeks, *(e)* over 52 weeks and *(f)* over 104 weeks. [243468]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246340]

Jonathan Shaw: I am unable to answer how many former prisoners the Department employs as we do not collect or record this information. We would be unable to gather the information as paperwork relating to appointment is destroyed in line with the Data Protection Act.

Current policy position

Our policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders is to employ individuals with unspent convictions wherever it is appropriate to do so. A risk assessment is made on each individual case taking into account the nature of the offence and the appropriateness of recruiting the individual concerned into the specific post on offer. Occasionally it is necessary to refuse employment to ex-offenders but this decision is not taken lightly. The Department is fully compliant with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and with Cabinet Office guidelines.

Pension Credit

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the way in which income from savings is taken into account in calculating entitlement to pension credit following the reduction in the Bank rate to two per cent.; and if he will make a statement. [242666]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* Pension credit disregards savings up to £6,000 (£10,000 for those in a care home). The vast majority of pensioners (around 80 per cent.) who are eligible for pension credit have savings of £6,000 or less and do not have tariff income applied.

Pension credit rules assume a notional rate of income at a rate of £1 for every £500 (or part of £500) savings held above the £6,000 threshold. This is half the rate assumed for working age benefits and is significantly more generous than those of the previous minimum income guarantee.

The formula is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of £6,000 (or £10,000 if in a care home) are expected to make from those resources to help meet their normal living expenses.

Pension credit, through the savings credit, is designed to specifically reward pensioners with low or modest second pensions or savings. Deemed income from capital is also qualifying income for the savings credit.

Pensions: Sheffield

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners in Sheffield receive their pensions by direct credit to their bank or building society account; [244102]

(2) how many pensioners in Sheffield collect their pensions from their local post office. [244103]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information available at April 2008 shows that in Sheffield around 62,000 pensioners were being paid their state pension by direct credit to their bank or building society accounts and around 18,500 were being paid into a Post Office card account.

Many of the 62,000 pensioners paid into a bank account may still choose to collect their cash from the Post Office using one of the 25 or so bank and building society accounts that can be accessed over the counter at Post Office branches.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243975]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department has not, at this stage, developed plans on how to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen in 2012.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the Royal Household about how to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

Social Security Benefits: Reform

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of his recently-announced proposals for welfare reform on severely mentally and physically disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [245848]

Jonathan Shaw: The impact on disabled people of all the proposals in our White Paper, Raising expectations and increasing support—reforming welfare for the future, was assessed as part of the wider impact assessment. The measures that have the most direct impact on disabled people are those to do with employment and support allowance and incapacity benefit.

The impact assessment can be found on the internet at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/raisingexpectations/impact-assessment.pdf

Sunbeds: Safety

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Health and Safety Executive will publish a response to the guidance on controlling the health risks associated with working with UV tanning equipment consultation. [246211]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive expects to publish the revised guidance leaflet (INDG209) and a summary of the responses to consultation on the draft version early in 2009.

Vertex Data Science

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracts his Department has with Vertex Data Science. [243882]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department currently has two contracts with Vertex Data Science Ltd., the Management of Clerical Cases Contract for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and the National Benefit Fraud Help line Contract for Jobcentre Plus. Vertex is also one of a panel of seven providers to support the recovery of child maintenance arrears, however, the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has yet to transfer any debt management cases to Vertex under this Framework Agreement.

Vertex is also being considered for a contract to provide other departmental work. This is currently subject to competitive tender.

Winter Fuel Payments

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* administrative expenditure which would be incurred by paying winter fuel payments on a pro-rata basis to those who attain the qualifying age after the qualifying period (i) as a transitional measure in the year 2008-09 and (ii) on average per year from 2008-09. [246063]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Entitlement to winter fuel payments is based upon people's circumstances in the qualifying week (set in legislation as 3rd Monday in September). Using the September qualifying week means that the payments can be made before Christmas in time for when winter fuel bills arrive.

The additional costs incurred by paying winter fuel payments on a pro-rata basis to those who reach the qualifying age during the period after the qualifying week but before the end of the financial year are approximately £40 million in 2008-09.

As population projections vary considerably in the future, it is not possible to give an average per year figure for the costs.

No information is collected which would enable the estimation of the administrative expenditure incurred in making payments to persons who attain the qualifying age after the qualifying period.

Note:

Figures are based on 2008 ONS population projections. Costs for any given year will vary with population fluctuations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer from the Prime Minister of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 821W, on 10 Downing Street, for what reason

the Cabinet Office has declined to place in the Library a list of the merchandise available in the Downing Street gift shop. [241774]

Kevin Brennan: A list of gifts is publicly available and has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether prices in the Downing Street gift shop have been reduced to reflect the reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent. [244941]

Kevin Brennan: Merchandise prices reflect the VAT rate charged by suppliers at the time of purchase. These gifts are unsubsidised and sold on a not-for-profit basis.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246663]

Kevin Brennan: The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office sponsors a number of advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) which provide independent expert advice on a number of issues. Appointments to NDPBs are governed by the principles set out in the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice. Summary information is published in "Public Bodies" which can be accessed online at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

or copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Summary information on the political activity of individuals appointed to posts regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice is published each year in the commissioner's annual report.

In addition, the Government publish on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243746]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office does not pay for Christmas parties for its staff. The Department's accounting system does not recognise the expenditure category of staff entertainment.

Non-profit Making Associations

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government policies to build capacity in the third sector. [246143]

Kevin Brennan: The NAO has been investigating the effectiveness, impact and value for money of Government investment in building the capacity of the third sector, and plans to report in early February. Both Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders have commissioned independent evaluation of their programmes. Local third sector infrastructure organisations have benefited from the programmes delivered by Capacitybuilders. Organisations that received Futurebuilders investments subsequently succeeded in winning public service delivery contracts.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with how many faith-based organisations the Government Equalities Office has contracts to provide public services. [244843]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office has no contracts with faith-based organisations.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to the Government Equalities Office's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if she will make a statement. [244020]

Maria Eagle: While I welcome the far ranging nature of the report and its recommendations, I have not carried out a formal assessment of their specific relevance to the work of the Government Equalities Office.

WALES

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247369]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246011]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not hold information centrally on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff.

The equal opportunities policies used during recruitment delivers the Wales Office a diverse work force without the need to set targets. Levels of diversity are published in our annual report each year. In 2007-08 approximately 14 per cent. of the Office's staff were of ethnic minority groups, and 51 per cent. of staff were female.

The Wales Office has a small number of staff with disabilities, but in order to maintain confidentiality, numbers are not given. This is in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244357]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office generally procures its furniture through Ministry of Justice contracts. The amount the Department has directly spent on furniture from British firms for each financial year since 2005-06 is detailed in the following table. Information for the years prior to 2005-06 could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost. The Department did not directly buy any furniture from Remploy or overseas firms.

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	2,239
2007-08	13,170
2008-09	[1]

[1] No expenditure to date

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which internet providers his Department uses. [245398]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office is provided with its IT services by the Ministry of Justice, including internet access. Users connect to the internet through the Government Secure Intranet service, which is provided by Cable and Wireless.

Departmental Older Workers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of new recruits to his Department were aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years in 2007-08. [245406]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not require applicants for its posts to provide their dates of birth.

This information is therefore not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Wales Office has a number of staff in post that are above the ages of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 respectively.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244383]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not employ contracted staff (either fixed term or permanent) at hourly rates. Fixed term and permanent staff are paid on the same pay scales to ensure fairness.

Temporary agency staff are paid at the hourly rate set by their employer (the agency) and not by the Wales Office. The Wales Office does not routinely use agency staff.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [246981]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [245401]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office does not have any contracts with employment agencies to provide temporary staff.

The Wales Office has occasionally needed to employ temporary staff, and in the last five years these have been provided by Kelly Services, Adecco and Acorn.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the £600 million of aid pledged to Afghanistan in June 2008 he expects to be spent in each year to 2012-13. [244374]

Mr. Michael Foster: At the Paris donor conference on 12 June the UK pledged £800 million, of which £613 million was new money, towards the international development effort in Afghanistan (2009-10 to 2012-13). This figure comprises contributions from the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Afghanistan Drugs Interdepartmental Unit (ADIDU), and the tri-departmental Stabilisation Aid Fund (SAF).

In 2008-09 DFID expects to disburse £123 million in Afghanistan. Due to the humanitarian, security and political situation our future programme must be flexible, therefore there is no fixed disbursement for the coming years. However, we fully expect to meet our £460 million share of the Paris pledge by 2012-13.

The FCO, ADIDU and SAF allocations for Afghanistan beyond this financial year have not yet been finalised for the same reason. The FCO and ADIDU are planning to spend around £25 million in 2008-09. In addition Afghanistan has been allocated £48 million under the SAF for the same year.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received on the *(a)* likelihood and *(b)* likely extent of famine in Afghanistan; what assessment he has made of Afghanistan's need for aid this winter; and if he will make a statement [244376]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received reports that the food-security situation is fragile however there is no indication of an imminent famine.

DFID works closely with other donors to assess Afghanistan's need for food aid. In 2008 the World Food Programme (WFP) launched two appeals to which DFID contributed a combined total of £11 million. The WFP has already delivered 96 per cent. of the 36,000 metric tonnes of food designated to vulnerable people in Afghanistan. The WFP confirmed that there is sufficient food in the pipeline until March 2009.

DFID is monitoring the situation with other partners and considering further support to the WFP beyond March 2009.

Bosnia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid his Department has given to Bosnia and Herzegovina in each year since 1997; and how it has been used. [244538]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA) in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1997-98 are in the following table.

DFID expenditure on development in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 1997-98 to 2007-08

£000

	Total DFID bilateral expenditure	Imputed DFID share of multilateral ODA
1997-98	1,501	30,697
1998-99	2,599	12,954
1999-2000	4,143	14,512
2000-01	3,383	10,286
2001-02	3,547	12,672
2002-03	6,647	13,862
2003-04	6,754	9,549
2004-05	5,224	10,568
2005-06	3,282	6,625
2006-07	3,975	8,199
2007-08	4,905	—

DFID's aid has been focused on socio-economic development, supporting activities under the UK Government through the global conflict prevention pool (GCPP) and de-mining activities.

Key programme objectives are to strengthen the capacity of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Government in their path towards EU integration. We specifically support:

the development of an aid co-ordination mechanism;

the development of Country Development Strategy processes;

strengthening the budgetary process;

public administration reform;

economic, fiscal and social policy reform, including social insurance policy;

support to the national justice sector reform strategy;

strengthening Government statistical systems;

the business enabling environment, and

good donor practices.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245336]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development does not have any contracts with IT suppliers that allow them to store the personal data of UK citizens overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245366]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development has had a senior information risk owner since the role was introduced in 2004. There were no changes to the role as a result of the introduction of the Data Handling Procedures in June 2008. The individual currently holding the role is a director in the senior civil service.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the IT systems in his Department is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245376]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: To date 81 per cent. of the Department for International Development's IT Systems are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. A project is under way to review and accredit the remaining 19 per cent. of IT systems and this is scheduled to finish in March 2009.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244350]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not record details of the nationality of firms providing furniture, and such information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. DFID has not procured any furniture from Remploy.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information technology projects initiated by his Department have been cancelled prior to completion in the last five years; and what the cost of each such project was to the public purse. [240383]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development cancelled an internal information technology project run by DFID Pakistan in September 2008. The project had spent £7,000 at the point of cancellation.

Guyana: Rain Forests

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist in preservation of rainforest in Guyana. [244488]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following a visit to the UK by President Jagdeo earlier this year, DFID committed £100,000 towards work by Guyana to develop a low-carbon investment prospectus and implementation plan. This includes an assessment of the cost of conserving Guyana's rainforests. Guyana has also secured funding under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund, to which the UK has contributed £15 million, to prepare a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Readiness Plan. Guyana is included in the Caribbean Regional Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change. In addition, we have undertaken to discuss with Guyana the results of the Eliasch Review into climate change and the financing of forests.

DFID officials will meet this month with Guyanese counterparts to discuss the creation of incentives to avoid deforestation.

International Assistance

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department plans to contribute to the International Fund for Agricultural Development in the next three years. [244165]

Mr. Michael Foster: Planned contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development in the next three years are made up of overlapping contributions to the 6th, 7th and 8th Replenishments:

£

Replenishment	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
6th (2004-06)	4,000,000	—	—
7th (2007-09)	9,703,750	8,317,500	—
8th (2010-12)	—	10,000,000	11,930,000
Total	13,703,750	18,317,500	11,930,000

North Korea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government have provided to North Korea in each of the last 10 years; how much is planned to be provided; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* nature of this aid is. [244495]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the UK's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) in North Korea over the last 10 years are in the following table.

UK gross public expenditure on development to North Korea, 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

	UK bilateral assistance	*Imputed UK share of multilateral ODA*
1998-99	306	5,888
1999-2000	638	3,493
2000-01	887	3,835
2001-02	2,119	2,372
2002-03	—	6,715
2003-04	712	2,878
2004-05	712	2,573
2005-06	—	1,932
2006-07	—	998
2007-08	732	

Of the UK's bilateral assistance, £83,000 in 2000-01, £42,000 in 2001-02 and £30,000 in 2007-08 was provided in support of English language training. In 2007-08, £53,000 was provided to support economic and development planning. All other UK bilateral expenditure was provided as humanitarian assistance.

There are currently no plans for DFID to start a bilateral programme in North Korea.

Overseas Aid: Wildlife Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes exist in the British Indian Ocean Territories to promote biodiversity and conservation. [245418]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Overseas Territories Environment Programme, jointly funded by the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, supports biodiversity conservation in UK Overseas Territories. To date seven projects have been funded in the British Indian Ocean Territory, of which two are being funded in the current financial year. These are:

(i) Royal Navy Birdwatching Society: monitoring of seabird populations at key sites to assess the impact of rodent eradication efforts;

(ii) Chagos Conservation Trust: publication of a public information note on the global environmental importance of the Chagos archipelago and ways in which visitors can help protect the unique environment. The information note is intended for distribution to visiting military and civilian personnel.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his Department's policy to seek to reduce the financial support for intensive livestock production methods. [244680]

Jane Kennedy: It has long been the case that the intensive livestock production sectors such as the pig, poultry and egg industries have been unsupported by direct EU subsidies. The legal basis for intervention in the pigmeat sector was removed in the recent CAP Healthcheck agreement in Brussels, a measure which the UK supported.

Bees

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 123W, on insects, if he will publish the assessment his Department has made of recent trends in the populations of wild bees. [246596]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Trends in the distributions of wild bee populations were published in the 'Provisional Atlas of the Aculeate Hymenoptera of Britain and Ireland' by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee are currently collating and analysing data on population trends for all UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species including bees. This information will be available in the spring.

Cardiff-Weston Barrage

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the costs of flood protection and alterations to sewage disposal facilities required as a result of the construction of *(a)* Cardiff-Weston barrage and *(b)* a Shoots barrage. [244501]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government-led Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study is considering the opportunities to generate power from the tidal range of the Severn Estuary.

The first phase of the study has concentrated on identifying the issues associated with the 10 possible projects under consideration. As such, no estimates have been made to date of costs of each of the options in respect of flood protection or sewage treatment. If the study should continue into Phase 2, more detailed assessments of possible impacts and costs of each of the short listed options will take place.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241183]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In July 2008, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme published Adapting to climate change in England—a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government Programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with DEFRA. Information about the programme and its work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act—including a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme that will then begin in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory National Adaptation Programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and report to Parliament.

In addition, DEFRA is continuing with its work looking at how a changing climate impacts each of the policy areas it has responsibility for, as well as working towards embedding adaptation into its corporate and policy decision making processes across the Department.

Coastal Areas: Departmental Coordination

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to improve its arrangements for co-ordination with other Government Departments of policy affecting coastal towns in the last two years. [244371]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We continue to work closely with other Government Departments to improve the process for co-ordinating the development of policy in coastal areas.

This year an important development has been the Coastal Towns Working Group, a cross-departmental group, which was set up in February 2008, following the House of Commons Select Committee Inquiry on Coastal Towns.

DEFRA plays a key role in this group which aims to coordinate its efforts to develop policies and address the challenges faced by coastal towns and to promote cross-Government understanding of the needs of coastal towns by looking at social, environmental and economic issues together.

There are a wide range of policy areas, activities and initiatives within Government which have implications for coastal towns. To show how these activities, including the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, will contribute to a more coordinated approach to decision making at the coast, we will be publishing a strategy for promoting an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas in England, in January 2009.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244704]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 1 January to 15 December 2008, DEFRA's Customer Contact Unit handled 37,979 pieces of correspondence. This included e-mails received via the DEFRA Helpline and letters from MPs, stakeholders and the public. We responded to 82 per cent. with the 15 working day target.

As at 15 December 2008, 1624 letters and 515 e-mails received via the DEFRA Helpline were unanswered. Of those unanswered, 700 were over the 15 working day target.

The number of unanswered e-mails, received elsewhere in DEFRA, cannot be provided within the disproportionate cost limit, as to do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

The Cabinet Office publishes an annual report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members'/Peers' correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242925]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been five fewer such disciplinary breaches in the Department since 1997. The details are withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244609]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government's delivery plan for 'Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate', published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the delivery plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246023]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA holds data on the sex, ethnicity, age and disability of its staff. Information on these aspects of diversity as at 30 September 2007 is available from the Office of National Statistics at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Civil_service_tables_2007.xls.

Departmental data are at tables 12 (Sex), 22 (Ethnicity), 29 (Age) and 25 (Disability).

Additionally, information on sexual orientation and religion and belief is collected through the anonymous DEFRA staff survey.

DEFRA aims to be visibly and culturally diverse at all levels. We have set targets for the representation of women, disabled people and ethnic minorities in the senior civil service (SCS) in support of the civil service diversity strategy, 'Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity', and these are set out in the table.

Percentage

	2008 DEFRA current position	*DEFRA target for 2011*
Women	26.2	38
Women in top management posts	22.0	33
Disabled	2.7	5.0
BME	2.2	5.0

DEFRA has also made a commitment to set targets during 2009 for grades immediately below the SCS, and also for more junior grades where there is under representation.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms in each year since 2000. [244345]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Estates Divisions, Space Utilisation Team, hold furniture expenditure records dating back to FY 2003-04. Details are:

	£
FY 2003-04	
British firms	549,220.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	203,948.00
FY 2004-05	
British firms	1,277,627.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	176,788.00
FY 2005-06	
British firms	1,071,342.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	6,189.00
FY 2006-07	
British firms	111,039.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	6,189.00
FY 2007-08	
British firms	95,017.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	0.00
FY 2008-09	
British firms	218,432.00
Remploy	0.00
Overseas firms	0.00

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246649]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA was formed in 2001. Since then, 57 complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by DEFRA were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA). None of these complaints were upheld by the ASA.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246957]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what bonuses were paid by his Department in 2007-08; to which members of staff; and for what purposes. [240793]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I would refer the right hon. Member to the reply given on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 395W, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244393]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department does not employ any permanent staff who are paid at an hourly rate.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [240307]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following tables provide the figures for each organisation. Data for Core DEFRA, RPA, CEFAS and VLA are from the pension administrator's database, data for CSL was taken from their internal HR database. All data is as of the October payroll update.

Core DEFRA (including Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and the Government Decontamination Service)

	Number	*Percentage*
Total staff	5,016	—
Classic	2,833	56.5
Classic Plus	254	5.1
Premium	1,518	30.3
Nuvos	210	4.2

RPA

	Number	*Percentage*
Total staff	3,555	—
Classic	1,782	50.1
Classic Plus	138	3.9
Premium	1,090	30.7
Nuvos	273	7.7

CEFAS

	Number	*Percentage*
Total staff	889	—
Classic	364	40.9
Classic Plus	32	3.6
Premium	190	21.4
Nuvos	67	7.5

CSL

	Number	*Percentage*
Total staff	652	—
Classic	335	51.4
Classic Plus/Premium	256	39.3
Nuvos	29	4.4

	VLA	
	Number	*Percentage*
Total staff	1,342	—
Classic	711	53.0
Classic Plus	54	4.0
Premium	401	29.9
Nuvos	41	3.1

Environment Protection: Greater London

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he next plans to meet the Mayor of London to discuss the environmental strategy for London. [244880]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither myself nor the Secretary of State are scheduled to meet with the Mayor of London to discuss this matter. However, the Minister for Sustainable Development and Energy Innovation, Lord Hunt, shall be meeting with him on 12 January 2009 to discuss air quality within the context of the western extension to the London congestion charge zone.

Environment Protection: Transport

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to promote walking and cycling along routes of the canal system *(a)* throughout the UK and *(b)* in London. [244858]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways works with a wide range of partners to promote walking and cycling, such as local authorities and Sustrans. It actively promotes walking and cycling on its towpaths throughout England and Wales through its website Waterscape as well as through an on-going promotional campaign to encourage people to use their local canals.

My Department is currently carrying out a review of the Government's waterways policy document Waterways for Tomorrow. The revised strategy will highlight the public benefits that our canal network can provide in terms of health and recreation and will consider opportunities for further promoting walking and cycling. We are liaising with the Department of Health and the Department for Transport (DFT) through the inter-departmental group on inland waterways to promote the use of the canal network in healthy living campaigns and sustainable transport initiatives respectively.

DFT has been promoting walking and cycling to local authorities in England (excluding London) through the Local Transport Plan process since 2000. The Mayor of London is responsible for walking and cycling routes in London. The October 2007 report by the Inland Waterways Advisory Council (IWAC) on Waterways for Tomorrow stated as an important achievement "Funding from local authorities has helped to improve towpaths for walking and cycling". In addition, many of the DFT funded 18 cycling demonstration towns and three sustainable travel towns together with match funding from these local authorities are developing canal towpaths for walking and cycling.

Fish: River Severn

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species of fish inhabit the Severn Estuary; and which are listed as endangered. [244320]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A list of fish species known to occur in the Severn estuary is provided as follows. This list includes marine species (based on sampling in Bridgewater Bay, inner Bristol channel, between 1980 and 2008), diadromous species known to migrate through the Severn estuary and freshwater species reported to occur in the upper estuary.

The species marked by an asterisk are either afforded legal protection or are designated as threatened or endangered by conservation forums.

Common name	*Scientific name*
Allis shad	Alosa alosa*
Anchovy	Engraulis encrasicolus
Anglerfish	Lophius piscatorius
Ballan wrasse	Labrus bergylta
Bass	Dicentrarchus labrax
Black goby	Gobius niger
Black sea bream	Spondyliosoma cantharus
Blonde ray	Raja brachyuran
Blue whiting	Micromesistius poutassou
Bream	Abramis brama
Brill	Scophthalmus rhombus
Brown (Sea) trout	Salmo trutta
Chub	Leuciscus cephalus
Cod	Gadus morhua*
Common carp	Cyprinus carpio
Common goby	Pomatoschistus microps
Common sand eel	Ammodytes tobianus
Common sea snail	Liparis liparis
Conger eel	Conger conger
Corkwing wrasse	Crenilabrus melops
Crucian carp	Carassius carassius
Crystal goby	Crystallogobius linearis
Cuckoo wrasse	Labrus mixtus
Dab	Limanda limanda
Dace Leuciscus leuciscus	
Dover sole	Solea solea
Dragonet	Callionymus lyra
Eel	Anguilla anguilla*
Fifteen-spined stickleback	Spinachia spinachia
Five-bearded rockling	Ciliata mustela
Flounder	Platichthys flesus
Garfish	Belone belone
Golden mullet	Liza aurata
Goldsinny wrasse	Ctenolabrus rupestris
Greater pipefish	Syngnathus acus
Greater sand eel	Hyperoplus lanceolatus
Grey gurnard	Eutrigla gurnardus
Gudegon	Gobio gobio
Hake	Merluccius merluccius
Herring	Clupea harengus
Hooknose (Pegge)	Agonus cataphractus
Horse mackerel	Trachurus trachurus

Common name	Scientific name
John dory	Zeus faber
Lemon sole	Microstomus kitt
Lesser-spotted dogfish	Scyliorhinus canicula
Lesser weever	Echiichthys vipera
Ling	Molva molva
Lumpsucker	Cyclopterus lumpus
Nilsson's pipefish	Syngnathus rostellatus
Northern rockling	Ciliata septentrionalis
Norway pout	Trisopterus esmarkii
Painted goby	Pomatoschistus pictus
Pearlside	Maurolicus muelleri
Perch	Perca fluviatilis
Pilchard	Sardina pilchardus
Piper	Trigla lyra
Plaice Pleuronectes platessa	
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius
Poor cod	Trisopterus minutus
Pout	Trisopterus luscus
Raitt's sandeel	Ammodytes marinus
Red mullet	Mullus surmuletus
River lamprey	Lampetra fluviatalis
Roach	Rutilus rutilus
Rock cook	Centrolabrus exoletus
Rock goby	Gobius paganellus
Rudd	Scardinius erythrophthalmus
Saithe	Pollachius virens
Salmon	Salmo salar*
Sand goby	Pomatoschistus minutus
Sand smelt	Atherina boyeri
Scaldfish	Arnoglossus laterna
Sea lamprey	Petromyzon marinus*
Silver bream	Abramis bjoerkna
Smalleyed ray	Raja microocellata
Snake pipefish	Entelurus aequoreus
Sole/solette	Buglossidium luteum
Sprat	Sprattus sprattus
Tadpolefish	Raniceps raninus
Ten-spined stickleback	Pungitus pungitus
Thicklipped grey-mullet	Chelon labrosus
Thinlipped grey-mullet	Liza ramada
Thornback ray	Raja clavata
Three-bearded rockling	Gaidropsarus vulgaris
Three-spined stickleback	Gasterosteus aculeatus
Tompot blenny	Parablennius gattorugine
Topknot	Zeugopterus punctatus
Transparent goby	Aphia minuta
Trigger Fish	Balistes capriscus
Tub gurnard	Chelidonichthys lucerna
Turbot	Psetta maxima
Twaite shad	Alosa fallax*
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus
Witch	Glyptocephalus cynoglossus
Worm pipefish	Nerophis lumbriciformis

Flood Control

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which recommendations of the Pitt Review *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency have implemented. [245972]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs made a statement to the House of Commons and published the Government's response to the review on 17 December 2008. It sets out what has already been done and a clear action plan for the remaining steps to deliver against the challenging agenda identified by Sir Michael. The Government's response can be viewed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07/Govtresptopitt.pdf.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on developing a single set of guidance for local authorities and the public on the use and usefulness of sandbags and other alternative means of flood water management; and when such guidance will be published. [246111]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As part of the response to Sir Michael Pitt's report on the summer 2007 floods, the Government announced that the Environment Agency's guidance on the use of sandbags will be updated by the Agency and made available to the Government, the public and local authorities by February 2009. The Environment Agency is developing additional guidance on self-help home protection measures for householders, businesses and building contractors who may fit them. This guidance will be developed by summer 2009.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency with *(a)* insurance companies and *(b)* the water industry on sharing information to facilitate the management of flood risk. [246119]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government agreed a new Statement of Principles with the Association of British Insurers (ABI) in summer 2008. The agreement requires the Environment Agency to provide information to insurance companies through the ABI. The Environment Agency assures me that it is making good progress to meet its obligations under the statement.

The Environment Agency has been working with water utilities and Water UK on a national protocol for sharing flood data.

Flood Control: Databases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether flood risk address information will be made available *(a)* publicly and *(b)* to interested parties. [242592]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency makes information from its National Flood Risk Assessment available to the public via their website. This information can be searched by postcode and provides an indication of flood risk for areas rather than particular properties. On payment of a small charge, the Environment Agency will also provide any more detailed information that it holds, but again this generally relates to areas rather than properties.

Information from the National Flood Risk Assessment is also supplied to insurers and other organisations.

Flood Control: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards the implementation of the EU Floods Directive. [246783]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Floods Directive came into force on 26 November 2007 and member states have two years in which to transpose the Directive into domestic law. DEFRA is co-ordinating the transposition of the Directive into UK law and is ultimately responsible for its timely and compliant implementation. A UK Floods Directive liaison group monitor progress against the project timetable.

Given that the Directive largely mirrors our existing approach to flood risk mapping and planning in England, we are developing proposals that build on these arrangements, taking into account forms of flooding that were previously not mapped, such as surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. Our current proposals are to transpose the Directive through the Floods and Water Bill.

The transposition will be subject to a full public consultation, which is expected to take place during 2009.

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 495, on the pre-Budget report, how much of the £3 billion of capital spending brought forward will be spent on flood defences; when he expects the funding to be available; what type of projects it will be spent on; whether any of the funding had been previously announced; and if he will make a statement. [244162]

Huw Irranca-Davies: £20 million of the capital funding announced for flood and coastal erosion risk management in 2010-11 will be brought forward to 2009-10. The Environment Agency estimate that 27,405 households will benefit from new or improved flood risk protection a year earlier than planned.

Funding will be allocated by the Environment Agency. The exact location of households benefiting will be dependent upon schemes passing the necessary feasibility studies and planning applications, as well as final approval for projects, which will be determined in February 2009. The Environment Agency has issued a list of schemes expected to be brought forward as a result. Copies of the list have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the management of local flood risk by local authorities will be funded. [246112]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Local authorities are already funded to manage local flood risk through the revenue support grant. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced a further £15 million over three years (2008-09 to 2010-11 inclusive) to fund priority local authorities to tackle local flood risk in areas most prone to surface water flooding.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the funding which his Department is making available to implement the Pitt Review recommendations will be allocated; and by what date such allocation will take place. [246113]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Annex B in The Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the Summer 2007 Floods provides a complete breakdown of the allocation of funding to implement the recommendations. Annex C sets out the timetable for taking work forward. Both annexes can be viewed at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07/Govtresptopitt.pdf.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department will provide for *(a)* the Environment Agency, *(b)* the water industry and *(c)* local authorities to develop tools and techniques to model surface water flooding. [246114]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is providing the Environment Agency with £8.5 million over three years (2008-09 to 2010-11 inclusive), on top of the funding already announced for the Environment Agency over the period, to take forward their elements of the Pitt Review action plan including the development of tools and techniques to model surface water flooding. DEFRA is not providing funding for either the water companies or for local authorities for this purpose as surface water modelling is part of the Environment Agency's new strategic overview role.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with local authorities on collating and mapping main flood risk management and drainage assets; and what funding his Department has allocated to such activities. [246118]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has been working closely with local authorities to improve the management of surface water including funding 15 Integrated Urban Pilot Projects to test approaches to surface water management. The results of this work have been used to produce guidance for the development of surface water management plans.

Local authorities also comprised the majority of the respondents to the DEFRA consultation on Improving Surface Water Drainage (February 2008) which is now being used to inform policy development.

On 17 December, after an open expression of interest exercise, DEFRA announced that six local authorities had been chosen to develop 1st Edition Surface Water Management Plans using the new guidance.

Local authority input into the Pitt Review was high and as part of the response to the Review a survey of local flood risk management was conducted by the

Local Government Association (LGA) and DEFRA. The aim of the survey was to establish the current and future capacity of local authorities to undertake the lead role on the management of local flood risk as proposed by the Pitt Review. There was a high response rate from local authorities to the survey. Two follow up workshops for local authorities are being organised by DEFRA and the Local Government Association to discuss the findings.

The Government's response to the Pitt Review, announced on 17 December 2007, includes £15 million from the Pitt fund and an estimated total of £12 million that local authorities are expected to spend in this area from existing budgets in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to deliver local authority leadership on flood risk management in the 50 highest priority areas. This includes surface water management plans, mapping of drainage assets and oversight and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems for new development.

Flood Control: Urban Areas

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* water safety and *(b)* other environmental regulations are in place to prevent public access to grassed areas above covered reservoirs; if his Department will encourage water companies to allow such access, with particular reference to urban areas with limited access to green space; and if he will make a statement. [246208]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Covered reservoirs can exist as part of the water supply network, and where these do exist, they have been subject to an appropriate level of fencing and security protection.

Under the Security and Emergency Measures Direction, guidance is issued to water companies by the Security Service on the issues they should be considering in order to protect their infrastructure and the standards that they should work to.

Public access to such sites is denied for many reasons—so that it does not compromise water quality, public safety or essential maintenance activities—and this may lead to a conflict between public access and operational requirements.

Flooding Lessons Learned Review

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made on implementing the recommendations contained in the Pitt report on flooding; and if he will make a statement. [243086]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government have made significant progress in implementing the recommendations of Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the summer 2007 floods. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs made a statement to the House of Commons and published the Government's response to the Review on 17 December 2008. It sets out what has already been done and a clear action plan for the remaining steps to deliver against the challenging agenda identified by Sir Michael. The Government's response can be viewed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07/Govtresptopitt.pdf

Floods: Risk Assessment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress the Environment Agency has made on assessing the risk of flooding from *(a)* surface water, *(b)* ground water flood risk and *(c)* coastal flood risk. [246109]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has made the following progress on assessing the risk of flooding.

(a) The Environment Agency issued maps to the 47 local resilience forums in England and Wales in August 2008 indicating the areas likely to be most susceptible to surface water flooding. This followed an urgent recommendation from the Pitt Interim Report that the Government accepted.

(b) The Environment Agency has established groundwater monitoring arrangements in the chalk aquifers across England and is developing a database of all historic records of groundwater flooding to share with local resilience forums.

(c) The Environment Agency undertakes regular assessments of the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea through its national flood risk assessments. The Environment Agency's website provides the latest assessment of the probability of flooding in a particular area including coastal and tidal flooding. The second round of shoreline management plans (covering erosion and flood risk) are under way and are due to be completed in 2010. There are 20 plans in England with the first due to be approved shortly covering the Tees to Flamborough area. A number of detailed strategies have been developed, and are in development, including the Humber Strategy and the Thames Estuary 2100.

Geographical Information Systems

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1015W, on geographical information systems, which Government bodies will participate in the provision of data to the national geo-portal. [245933]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Implementation of a national geo-portal is being considered among the options for INSPIRE. If a national geo-portal is implemented, it is envisaged that all Government bodies including the devolved Administrations and local authorities across the UK would be given the opportunity to participate in the provision of data.

Gifts

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff in his Department have received gifts valued at £100 or higher in the course of their duties in each of the last three years; what these gifts were; and from whom they were received. [242022]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) does not hold a central record about gifts received by all staff. The Department therefore is not in a position to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate cost.

The rules and guidance on receipt of gifts by civil servants are set out in the "Civil Service Management Code", and within the DEFRA staff handbook which is accessible to all staff.

Inland Waterways

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with British Waterway's on progress towards its target to expand its waterways network in the Cotswolds by 2012. [246751]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I meet with British Waterways regularly to discuss the best strategy for the waterways network.

The Government support British Waterways' ambitions to expand the network where this will assist in achieving clear additional public benefits. This is provided such expansion does not compromise British Waterways' ability to maintain the existing network through creating additional on-going financial liabilities. Engagement in restoration projects is a matter for its Board to decide, given the need for careful assessment of costs and British Waterways' statutory position.

The Cotswold Canals restoration project is now being taken forward by the Cotswold Canals Partnership. British Waterways is no longer a lead partner in this project but continues to provide expertise.

Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken in conjunction with other countries on the monitoring and implementation of international conservation projects in the last six months. [244055]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department's main programme supporting international conservation initiatives is the Darwin Initiative, a grants programme launched at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The Darwin Initiative funds collaborative projects to assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to implement their biodiversity-related commitments. It has committed over £65 million to 601 projects in 146 countries.

The Edinburgh Centre for Tropical Forests monitors and evaluates the progress of the Darwin Initiative on DEFRA's behalf to assess whether the Initiative is: achieving its objectives and meeting its key criteria; having a lasting impact and legacy on biodiversity in host countries and helping them to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity; and whether it is representing good value for money.

The monitoring and evaluation exercise is carried out with the involvement of the UK-based and the host-country based organisations carrying out each project.

Nature Conservation: Wind Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is conducting on the effect on bat populations of onshore wind turbines; how much funding has been provided for such research; and if he will make a statement. [243690]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A project has been approved to establish whether and to what extent bat populations are at risk from on-shore wind turbines. A specification for desk-based research and to establish survey protocols as phase 1 of a contract will go out to tender in January. Phase 2 of the contract will undertake field survey activity from August for up to three years.

To ensure we do not compromise the tender process we cannot specify what funding has been allocated to this work until contracts have been let.

Nitrate Zones: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review his policy on nitrate zones in and around Gloucestershire; if he will allow additional time for appeals; what steps his Department has taken to inform farmers of the creation of new nitrate zones; and if he will make a statement. [244414]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The EC nitrates directive requires member states to review their designations of nitrate vulnerable zones (NVZs) every four years and to revise them as necessary. Reviews of NVZs in England are conducted at the national scale and the last review was undertaken in 2006-07. Regulations giving effect to the recent review were laid in September 2008 and come into force on 1 January 2009.

The regulations also establish that owner-occupiers can appeal against the designation of their land within an NVZ, and set the deadline for submitting an appeal as 31 January 2009. The independent appeals panel charged with determining appeals has powers under the regulations to accept information submitted beyond this deadline.

My Department wrote to all farmers identified as likely to be in an NVZ in October. A number of press notices and information bulletins have been issued highlighting the introduction of the new regulations and advising farmers to check published maps of the new NVZs. These and other awareness-raising activities are ongoing.

Religious Buildings: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill), of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1229W, on religious buildings: fees and charges, whether an assessment of the effect on the voluntary sector of changes to charges on places of worship was made; [245920]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the average water bill for church premises; [245921]

(3) what checks Ofwat undertakes; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that water companies do not gain additional revenue from new methods of charging. [246038]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither DEFRA nor Ofwat, the independent economic regulator of the water industry, collects information on the increases in water bills for groups of customers of a particular funding or charitable status. Where a company makes a change to the way it charges for water or sewerage services, Ofwat challenges the company's proposals to make sure charges are not unduly preferential to one customer group over another. Groups of customers are defined by the costs they are

likely to impose and are independent of the financial or charitable status of individual non-household customers. Ofwat's checks also ensure that the company gains no additional revenue from the new method of charging.

Part of Ofwat's duty is to approve companies' charges schemes. These schemes outline how water and sewerage companies will charge their customers. It is for the company to decide on its methods of charging. When a company introduces new tariffs, Ofwat check that these are consistent with price limits and company licence conditions.

Each year Ofwat checks water company charges principal statements to make sure the weighted average increase in all of the company's charges does not exceed the company's price limits, for customers using less than 50 mega-litres per annum.

Rights of Way

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much land has been designated under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; how much of this has been designated for the use of *(a)* walkers, *(b)* cyclists, *(c)* horse riders and *(d)* other equestrians; and at what locations land has been so designated. [244577]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) allows voluntary dedication by land owners and long leaseholders of public access rights over their land. To date 156,246 hectares of land has been dedicated in this way for public use on foot.

The same section allows a voluntary dedication to extend the CROW rights to include a right for the public to ride horses or cycles as well as a right of access on foot. To date there has been only one dedication of this kind, which created access rights for horse riders over 0.25 hectares of land in East Riding of Yorkshire. As yet there has been no such dedications of cycling rights.

Detailed information on the locations of the areas of land affected by dedications to date for access on foot cannot be provided, except at disproportionate expense, but the areas of land will normally be displayed as part of the open access land shown on Natural England's 'countryside access' website.

Rights of Way: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much land under the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 has been allocated to *(a)* walkers, *(b)* cyclists and *(c)* horseriders in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) the North West. [245065]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The access land mapped under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) for public use on foot includes 1,752 hectares in Chorley, 37,941 hectares in Lancashire and 278,860 hectares in the North West of England. CROW created no new general rights of access for horse riders or cyclists, and there is no central record of any voluntary extension of the access rights over the land in question to include cyclists or horse riders.

Rural Development Programme: North West

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding the Rural Development Programme has committed to projects in the North West in the last 12 months. [243962]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Responsibility for project funding under the Rural Development Programme for England 2007-13 has been devolved to regional development agencies. In the last 12 months, the North West Regional Development Agency has committed funding to programmes and projects to the value of £29,259,851. This figure is made up of £567,972 to fund legacy commitments from the previous England Rural Development Programme which closed in 2006, and £28,691,879 committed to new activities under the Rural Development Programme for England.

Seals: Conservation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to include measures to prohibit the shooting of seals in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill. [244159]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Seals are currently protected in England by the Conservation of Seals Act (1970). Under this Act, it is an offence to take or kill common and grey seals out of season. The Act also allows for the Secretary of State, if it appears necessary for the proper conservation of seals, to designate an area within which the killing, injuring or taking of seals is prohibited.

Seals also receive protection under European law through Council Directive 92/43/EEC, known as the 'Habitats Directive'. This directive requires EC member states to introduce a range of measures for the protection of habitats and species listed in its annexes. Seals feature as an Annex II qualifying species and therefore, within special areas of conservation (SACs) designated for the purpose of conserving seals, competent authorities are required to take appropriate steps to avoid significant disturbance to the species or deterioration of their habitat.

Presently, 12 SACs list grey seals as a species interest, and 11 SACs list common seals. Further information on these SACs can be found on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website.

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill will provide us with a range of measures to protect nationally important marine features; one such measure is the introduction of marine conservation zones (MCZs). If seals were listed as a protected feature of an MCZ, they would be protected from deliberate damage, injuring, killing, taking and so on—including shooting—within that site, and competent authorities would be required to control activities to ensure any conservation objectives set for the site are not significantly hindered.

Seas and Oceans: Biodiversity

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* flora and *(b)* fauna population trends on UK marine reefs. [246811]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Reefs are a feature under the Habitats Directive (encompassing rocky reef and biogenic reef) and as such, its parameters are reported for Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). The Status is determined for Area, Range, Structure and Function, and Future prospects.

For the 2007 reporting of FCS, the Common Standards Monitoring work undertaken by the country agencies was used to provide data for the last two parameters. However, this was essentially a baseline assessment, rather than pure monitoring, as many areas have only been surveyed once.

The overall judgement for reefs was 'unknown' for all parameters as there was no basis upon which to judge possible trends. It is likely that when the next report is due (in five years' time) we will have more idea of trends.

Results of the UK's FCS reporting can be found on the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) website at:

www.eionet.europa.eu.

Sewers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department plans to provide to enable *(a)* local authorities to meet their responsibilities for adopting and maintaining new build and re-developing sustainable drainage systems and *(b)* water companies to meet their new responsibilities to adopt and maintain private sewers and lateral drains. [246115]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are exploring funding options for the long-term maintenance of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) adopted by local authorities. Any net new burdens on local authorities will be fully funded.

The cost to water and sewerage companies of maintaining private sewers and lateral drains following their transfer from 2011 will be met through charges to customers generally, as is the case with the rest of the public sewerage infrastructure for which they are responsible.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ofwat and *(b)* the water industry on how to achieve risk-based standards for public sewerage systems. [246116]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA maintains regular contact with Ofwat on the development of Surface Water Management Plan guidance and associated local authority responsibilities. Surface Water Management Plans will inform the development of standards for the existing sewerage system reflected in water company investment programs.

DEFRA also chairs a stakeholder working group including Ofwat and Water UK (the representative body for the water industry) which is examining a design and construction standard for new sewers. Currently the water industry is harmonising their various company standards and expect to present them to the working group in spring 2009.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ofwat and *(b)* the water industry on funding of flood protection for critical infrastructure at risk of flooding. [246117]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat published in draft in February 2008, and in final form in September 2008, made clear that in their business plans water companies are expected to consider the resilience of their assets and that Ofwat is expected to ensure companies are able to invest in essential works. Ofwat has also issued guidance for water companies on flood risk assessment and identification of priority investments in preparation for the 2009 price review. The proposals in company business plans are now being scrutinised by Ofwat as part of the price review for 2010 to 2015.

Stray Dogs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse of kennelling stray dogs has been in each year since the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 was implemented; and what estimate he has made of those costs in the next three years. [242551]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not collect the data requested.

On 6 April 2008, section 68 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act relieved the police of the responsibility of dealing with stray dogs. Since the commencement of the Act, additional funding of £4 million a year, through the revenue support grant for the three years of the comprehensive spending review period, has been provided to local authorities in England and Wales to cover the additional costs of providing an out of hours service for stray dogs.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many local authorities provide kennelling facilities for the use of stray dogs only; [242552]

(2) how many local authorities offer a 24 hour, seven day per week service for catching and kennelling stray dogs; what provision local authorities make for the management of stray dogs where no such continuous service is provided; and what recent guidance his Department has issued on the provision of such services; [242590]

(3) how many dog wardens are employed by local authorities; [242717]

(4) how many stray dogs have been kennelled by local authorities in each of the last three years. [242718]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not collect the data requested.

Guidance on local authorities' duties regarding stray dogs was published in October 2007 and can be found on the DEFRA website.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with angling and fishing organisations on the impact of a Severn barrage on fish stocks in the Severn estuary and associated waters. [244318]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither the Secretary of State nor I have had any such discussions with angling or fishing organisations, but the matter was raised with me at a meeting I had with the chairs of the Environment Agency's Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees on 4 December.

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what input his Department has had to the Government's Severn Tidal Power Feasibility study. [244319]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has played a central role in contributing advice to the cross-Government Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study, in particular regarding the potential environmental impacts of a tidal power scheme in the Severn. The Department is working closely with Natural England, the Government's statutory conservation adviser, which has provided supporting scientific evidence and advice on environmental issues.

The Secretary of State is a member of the Severn Tidal Power Ministerial group, and DEFRA officials represent the Department on the project board that oversees the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study. Some members of DEFRA and Natural England staff have also been seconded into the Severn Tidal Power team within the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

Water

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of water lost to leaks through water pipes on an annual basis; and how much he estimates is lost through leaks from water pipes of each individual water company. [246781]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies report annual leakage figures to Ofwat in June as part of their annual regulatory returns. Figures reported for 2007-08 show that total water company leakage was 3,291 Megalitres/day, down from 5,112 Megalitres/day in 1994-95. In 2007-08 all water companies met their leakage targets and total industry leakage fell by 3.7 per cent (127 Megalitres/day) on a like for like basis from 2006-07 levels.

Leakage performance for individual companies in 2007-08 is as follows[1]:

[1] Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Performance 2007-08

	Megalitres/day
Anglian	210
Bournemouth and W Hants	22
Bristol	53
Cambridge	13.9
Dee Valley	10.3
Dwr Cymru	205
Essex and Suffolk	68
Folkestone and Dover	7.9
Mid Kent	27
Northumbrian	135
Portsmouth	30
Severn Trent	490
South East	69
South Staffordshire	72
South West	84
Southern	83
Sutton and East Surrey	24
Tendring Hundred	5.0
Thames	715
Three Valleys	140
United Utilities	460
Wessex	72
Yorkshire	295
Industry Total	3,291

Water Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology approved for use by water companies to estimate assessed charges for water bills. [245901]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no such methodology. Companies are responsible for deciding individual charges. Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sector in England and Wales, approves companies' charges schemes each year and checks that water company charges are consistent with licence conditions.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what means are in place to ensure that Ofwat can regulate and check that water companies carry out the work required of them to allow price increases after the Ofwat Price Review; and what powers Ofwat has to enforce compliance. [246779]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ofwat provides each water company with a detailed report setting out what the company must deliver for customers over the price review period. These reports act as detailed documents outlining outputs and deliverables which the company must achieve with the price limits set.

Ofwat undertakes annual monitoring of company performance and will take action where companies fail to deliver on the required improvements. Ofwat's powers to impose financial penalties on water and sewerage companies came into effect on 1 April 2005. The powers were introduced in the Water Act 2003.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy that water companies be allowed to spend any additional revenue accrued through water charges following the price review on protection for critical infrastructure from flooding. [246780]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is the responsibility of water companies to include proposals in their business plan for protecting critical infrastructure. Ofwat, as the economic regulator, will review companies' proposals and set price limits, getting the best deal for the customer, while ensuring companies can deliver a safe and secure water supply.

Water Charges: EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed increases in water charges will reflect the work required to be undertaken by water companies to comply with the EU water framework directive. [246784]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As part of the process of the Periodic Review of Water Prices 2009 (PR09) DEFRA has issued a Statement of Obligations which brings together and describes the key statutory obligations that apply to water and sewerage undertakers. This includes the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Water companies have included some measures to meet the requirements of the WFD in their draft business plans. However, all necessary WFD measures to be delivered by 2015 will not be known until River Basin Management Plans have been consulted on and are finalised in December 2009.

Water companies have to submit their final business plans to Ofwat in April 2009 and as such it is possible that the WFD measures that companies are required to deliver will change. If so, the Environment Agency, DEFRA and Ofwat will work together through the Change Protocol to ensure that the changed requirements of the WFD can be delivered by 2015.

Water Companies

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that water companies consider the need for climate change adaptation in their business plans; and if he will make a statement. [244222]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Water companies submitted their draft business plans to Ofwat in August. They will submit final business plans to Ofwat in April 2009.

DEFRA has issued statutory Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat. This sets out the key social and environmental policies that the Government expect Ofwat to contribute to in carrying out their role as the independent economic regulator of the water industry. This includes climate change adaptation. A copy is available on the DEFRA website.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that water companies consider in their business plans the objectives of *(a)* reducing per capita consumption of water and *(b)* increasing water efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [244223]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In August 2008, DEFRA issued Social and Environmental Guidance to Ofwat, the economic regulator for the water companies in England and Wales. The guidance sets out key areas of social and environmental policy that the Government expect Ofwat to contribute to, including in relation to reducing water demand and increasing water efficiency. The guidance is one of the means by which the priorities of the Government's water strategy for England, Future Water, can be delivered. The guidance is available on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/industry/review/pdf/ofwat-guidance080922.pdf

Water Companies: Debts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the issue of bad debt on the part of water companies. [246782]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy), met Water UK on 18 November 2008. A range of issues were discussed, including bad debt in the water industry.

The problem of bad debt is being examined as part of the Walker review of charging for household water and sewerage services. The interim report is expected in spring 2009.

Water Companies: Flood Control

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers he intends to give to local authorities to ensure that water companies do all necessary work for which they are responsible as part of flood prevention programmes. [246787]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Local authorities will be key players in future flood risk management, particularly for surface runoff and groundwater flooding, and for managing its interaction with other sources of flooding.

The Pitt review makes it clear that success will depend on greater co-ordination and co-operation between local partners, and the Government look to these partners to work together closely to establish the most effective arrangements depending on local circumstances.

The Government believe that these objectives will be best met if new partnership arrangements are established to bring together county, unitary and district authorities, the Environment Agency (EA), water companies, sewerage undertakers and other bodies including internal drainage boards, working together to secure effective and consistent management of local flood risk in their areas. It is proposed that these partnerships are underpinned by a new duty on all partners to co-operate and share information with local authorities and the EA. We would expect these organisations to work together to decide the best arrangements for delivery on an area by area basis, taking account of their current roles and capacities. Local authorities working together will have specific responsibilities for effective management of local flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary water courses.

Whales: Japan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on whaling. [245260]

Huw Irranca-Davies: While I have not yet held any discussions with representatives of the Government of Japan on this matter, the UK has consistently voiced its opposition to Japanese "scientific" whaling, most recently at the meeting of the 'Small Working Group', charged with taking forward discussions on the future of the International Whaling Commission, held in Cambridge from 8-10 December 2008.

Wood

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will instruct the Forestry Commission to conduct a comprehensive survey of wood availability and use in the UK in 2009 in conjunction with the wood processing industry. [246394]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission is already working with the wood processing industry and private sector growers to generate robust estimates of wood availability and use. This ongoing work includes a new inventory of British woodlands, to be undertaken over the next five years, in order to define how much wood is potentially available and how fast it is growing. In addition, data will be collected on both current timber harvesting and deliveries to the wood processing sector.

It will be important to ensure that the final outputs provide a sound evidence base for both policy formulation and also to help to inform future private sector investment. To achieve this, it is essential to have good quality inventory work, which takes time to complete. Nevertheless, the Forestry Commission is planning to publish details of softwood availability and use, which is the area of most immediate interest to the wood processing industry, in 2011.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to increase the supply of allotments. [246361]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government statute and guidance provides the framework for the supply of allotment at the local level.

The provision of allotments is the responsibility of local authorities. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide allotments where they perceive a demand for them in their area.

In addition, 'Planning Policy Guidance 17: Sport, Open Space and recreation', encourages local authorities to assess the needs of their communities for a range of open spaces, (including allotments) and to address deficiencies. It also suggests that authorities should allocate sites within their plans for the provision of new open spaces. PPG 17 advises local authorities to use the information gained from their assessments of needs and opportunities to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreation facilities in their areas.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which grievances referred to on page 36 of the report The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England published in June 2008 resonate most at *(a)* a local level and *(b)* a regional or national level; and which local authorities are most affected. [245511]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

There is no common hierarchy of grievances at local, regional or national level. And hierarchy is difficult to discern when localised grievances such as socio-economic issues are bundled into a single narrative with national issues about Government policies and international issues such as foreign policy.

As "The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England" makes clear on page 70

"...real or perceived grievances may develop about aspects of Government policy (particularly foreign policy), discrimination or racism, lack of social mobility, perceived mistreatment in the criminal justice system and counter-terrorism measures. Perceptions of distorted media representations of communities or conflicts are also relevant. A shared sense of grievance locally, nationally and internationally may reinforce group identity."

Many people express grievances. But only a tiny minority choose to use them to justify violence, often prompted by radicalisers who exacerbate and selectively exploit grievances to recruit people to their cause. This is why the Prevent strategy aims to address grievances as one of its core elements. Where grievances have substance government should explain its position clearly, setting out what action might already be undertaking. Where concerns arise from misunderstandings or genuine differences of opinion then clarification and openness are equally important. But where there is distortion or fabrication of the Government's position then we need to say so, firmly.

Research into grievances is ongoing and we are encouraging local authorities, through engagement and research, to gain a better understanding of those grievances which resonate most in their communities.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work her Department has undertaken to establish which local authorities in receipt of funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund have robust processes for commissioning and performance managing prevent projects; and how she intends to ensure that those areas which do not have robust processes in place will put them in place. [245514]

Mr. Khan: Government offices work very closely with local authorities in their areas to support them in establishing robust and transparent procedures and in ensuring best practice is shared.

The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which will be introduced from April 2009, is an important component of the performance framework for the Prevent agenda. CLG and other Government Departments have been working with the local public services inspectorates (including the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) so that the CAA helps to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of Prevent, including the most effective use of resources.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how she plans to ensure that local Prevent partnerships develop the appropriate narrative referred to in paragraph 27 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [245519]

(2) what steps her Department plans to take to provide partnerships with more information identifying the factors that make some people vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism, as mentioned on page 23 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; and if she will make a statement; [245517]

(3) what steps her Department plans to take to ensure that the Security Service, the Association of Chief Police Officers and regional government offices will develop an agreed structure for information sharing at an appropriate level between police, councils and other partners, as referred to on page 22 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [245516]

(4) what plans she has to develop a suite of information sources to enable Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to have a clear process for mapping their communities and identifying vulnerability to violent extremism, as referred to in paragraph 60 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [245515]

(5) how her Department plans to analyse and disseminate the learning of partnerships who have dealt with the direct impact of violent extremism in order to learn from their experience; [245513]

(6) how she plans to ensure that councils are providing the tailored support through targeted prevent approaches to people who are at risk of, or are moving towards extremism, referred to in paragraph 36 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [245512]

(7) when her Department plans to publish its response to Lord Patel's review of community approaches to preventing violent extremism; [245537]

(8) what plans she has to develop National Indicator 35 in response to the recommendation on page 52 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246232]

(9) what plans she has to provide research on the causes of violent extremism to local partnerships, in response to paragraph 170 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246231]

(10) whether she plans to promote the joint briefing of front line council staff and neighbourhood policing teams on the Prevent programme, in response to paragraph 160 of the Audit Commission's report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246230]

(11) whether she plans to ensure that briefing on the Prevent programme is extended to all frontline council staff, in response to paragraph 120 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246229]

(12) whether she plans to review her Department's policy on protective marking and vetting of documents, in response to paragraph 77 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; and if she will make a statement; [246226]

(13) what response she plans to make to the recommendation on page 28 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on sharing experience of counter-terrorism operations; [246212]

(14) what response she plans to make to the recommendation on page 31 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on the capacity of councils in respect of activity in connection with the Prevent programme; [246196]

(15) what response she plans to make to the recommendation in paragraph 75 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on the flow of information between councils and police forces; [246195]

(16) what response she plans to make to the recommendation in paragraph 73 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on collection of information at local level; and if she will make a statement; [246194]

(17) what response she plans to make to the recommendation on page 32 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on the composition of local partnerships; [246193]

(18) with respect to the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise, how she plans to rectify the absence of relevant information to determine the extent of local vulnerability referred to in paragraph 27; [245518]

(19) whether she plans to assess information relating to international issues for their relevance to specific local communities as referred to in paragraph 125 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; and if she will make a statement. [245694]

Mr. Khan: A number of reviews took place over the summer which sought to draw out learning and emerging practice on the delivery of activity to prevent violent extremism, including the joint Audit Commission and

HMIC Learning and Development Exercise (LDE). Though each review had a different focus, together they provide a useful package of learning material upon which local partners can draw and which will inform the Government's approach to Prevent.

There are a number of common themes which run through all these reviews. Some of these require action from national Government, some from local partners and many from both. We have ensured wide distribution of the LDE report to enable local partners to benefit directly from the important learning it contains in taking forward their local Prevent response. We published "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" on 10 December, which sets out the key strands of learning from the reviews and work already underway to address these key themes. We will continue to develop our response to the reviews throughout the year.

I will place a copy of "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" in the Library of the House.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of political extremism, as referred to on page 18 of the report, Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion, contingency planning and tension monitoring. [245552]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the regional conferences with young people to debate extremism issues referred to on page 8 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism: A Strategy for Delivery will be held; where they will be held; and if she will make a statement. [245556]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office are joint sponsors of nine Youth Conferences on Extremism being delivered by the UK Youth Parliament and the Association for Chief Police Officers. There will be one in each of the nine Government office regions in England. To date, two have been held, one in the North East on 8 August 2008 and one in Yorkshire and Humber on 22 November. The remaining seven conferences will be held between January and March 2009, confirmed dates are:

London: Thursday 19 February 2009

East Midlands: Thursday 19 February 2009

North West: Thursday 26 February 2009

South West: Saturday 21 March 2009

The purpose behind these conferences is to provide safe places for young people from diverse communities to meet and discuss terrorism and extremism around four key themes:

Terrorism and what it means to young people

Violent Extremism and what it means to young people

Youth Leadership

How the police should work with young people

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder fund. [245534]

Mr. Khan: Evaluating a programme designed to prevent violent extremism can be challenging. However, there are several pieces work either already published or underway which focus on this issue.

A mapping of projects funded by the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund was published at the recent national Prevent conference, on 10 December. It estimates that the Pathfinder fund reached over 44,000 individuals. The report also collates locally focussed evaluation reports where they were available and provides a synthesis of their findings.

A number of reviews took place in 2008, including the Audit Commission and HMIC's Learning and Development Exercise, which looked at how local partners and partnerships were responding to the challenge of preventing violent extremism. The document "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" brings together the key themes from these reviews and is available on the CLG website.

Further work is under way to develop our approach to, and methodology for, evaluating work to prevent violent extremism locally.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis funding in support of work to prevent violent extremism has been allocated to local authorities for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245535]

Mr. Khan: In order to build resilience to violent extremism where it is most needed, the eligibility for, and distribution of funding has been based on the size of local Muslim communities.

While every eligible local authority receives a minimum level of funding for prevent work, the overall funding level reflects the size of the Muslim population that the authority will be working with. The criteria for eligibility reduces from 2008-09 to 2010-11 to provide funding to an increasing number of authorities, with 94 funded by 2010-11. Details of funding amounts can be found on the CLG website.

Community Relations: Religion

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have mapped the denominational backgrounds of local communities as part of the programme to develop a deeper understanding of local communities referred to on page 12 of the report, The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England. [245566]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not routinely collect information on any mapping done by local authorities on the denominational backgrounds of local communities. However, every local authority will report progress on criteria linked to National Indicator 35—Building

Communities Resilient to Violent Extremism, including the understanding of, and engagement with, Muslim communities.

Council Housing: Construction

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bids from local authorities to build new housing for rent have been *(a)* received and *(b)* approved by her Department; and which local authorities have made such bids. [246785]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have announced that local authorities would be invited to bid for social housing grant through the Homes and Communities Agency. This followed our proposal to make changes to the revenue and capital rules that apply to new council housing in order to remove some financial disincentives to council new build in the current system. We intend to set out our plans for implementing these changes very shortly.

Council Housing: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* inspections and *(b)* audits the Tenants Service Authority plans to undertake in respect of local authorities; and what data it plans to collect from such authorities. [246052]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Tenant Services Authority does not, at present, regulate local authority providers of social housing. We have made clear our intention that local authorities will be brought under its remit within two years of its establishment. An enabling power in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 will allow us to make the necessary legislative provisions through regulations, subject to parliamentary approval.

Professor Ian Cole was appointed to chair an advisory panel tasked with producing recommendations on how to deliver a cross-domain approach to regulation. He submitted his report to Government in September 2008.

We are taking account of Professor Cole's recommendations as we work towards publishing draft regulations for public consultation in early 2009. The consultation will include proposals on how the regulatory framework should address inspection and provision of information. The Tenant Services Authority, through its national consultation with providers and tenants throughout 2009, will lead on developing the detail of how regulation will operate in practice.

Council Housing: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 141W, how much housing stock *(a)* North Yorkshire local authority districts and *(b)* the City of York hold. [245677]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows local authority housing stock held by local authorities in the North Yorkshire area and the City of York authority on 1 April 2007.

	Stock within LA, owned by LA
North Yorkshire:	8,743
Craven[1]	2
Hambleton[1]	0
Harrogate	3,936
Richmondshire	1,632
Ryedale[1]	0
Scarborough[1]	0
Selby	3,173
City of York	8,058

[1] Large Scale Voluntary Transfer authority.

Source:
Local authority stock from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) as reported by local authorities.

The figures shown are as reported by local authorities.

Four of the North Yorkshire local districts have transferred their housing stock to Registered Social Landlords. Hambleton and Ryedale transferred their stock before 1997-98, Craven in March 2003, and Scarborough in December 2003.

After March 2003 Craven discovered that they still own two units, unfit for occupation, above the town hall. These two units, listed in the table, have not been transferred to Registered Social Landlords.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245340]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government and its agencies has two systems where personal data of UK citizens is stored overseas. These are the contract for the Public Enquiry Service Database and the Fire Service College Learners Database. The Public Enquiry Service Database is hosted in the USA and stores approximately 4,000 records. The Fire Service Learners Database is in Germany and holds approximately 6,000 personal records.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment she has made of her Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246025]

Mr. Khan: Through a combination of compulsory and voluntary processes, the Department collects data in relation to all these categories of its staff. This information is presented in the Department's annual Workforce Diversity Data report; the 2007-08 report is in the final stages of drafting.

At March 2008, the Department exceeded the cross-Whitehall targets on women, BME and disabled staff in the SCS, as set out in the Civil Service 10 Point Diversity Plan. The following table shows our final position together

with the new targets required by its successor, 'Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity: A strategy for the Civil Service' (published July 2008).

SCS Group	Cross-Government targets 2008	Cross-Government targets 2011	Communities targets for March 2011	Percentage Results at 31 March 2008[1]
Women in SCS	37	39	50	41.3
Women in top management positions	30	34	40	33.3
BME staff[2]	4	5	8	4.8
Staff with disabilities[2]	3.2	5	7	4.7

[1] Results are based on the SCS staff providing information to Personnel Information Management System (PIMS). [2] Percentage differences between BME and disabled staff are caused by disparities in SCS data completion rates.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246989]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government and its agencies do not require the public to make telephone calls on numbers which charge more than the national rate. The only 0845 number used is the Neighbourhood Renewal helpline (0845 0828383). However, calls to this number are diverted to the main Communities and Local Government switchboard and are charged at a local rate to the caller.

Deprivation Indicators

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the geographical barriers score of each parliamentary constituency in the Indices of Deprivation 2007 was, ranked from highest to lowest. [245903]

Mr. Khan: Statistics from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 have not been produced for parliamentary constituencies.

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) were constructed at lower super output area (LSOA) level. LSOAs are consistent in size and over time, allow identification of small pockets of deprivation. There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. Because parliamentary constituencies are relatively large and subject to boundary change, it is not feasible to produce the Indices at this geographical level.

Six summary measures of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2007 have been produced at both local authority district and unitary authority levels. The summary measures at district level focus on different aspects of multiple deprivation in the area. The six measures are 'Average Score, Average Rank, Extent, Local Concentration, Income Scale, and Employment Scale'.

IMD07 and the local authority summaries can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 97W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, who the *(a)* managing, *(b)* certifying and *(c)* audit authority for each of the EU Interreg programmes listed is. [246942]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows.

Interreg programme	(a) Managing authority	(b) Certifying authority	(c) Audit authority
Interreg IVA			
2 Seas	Nord-Pas-de Calais Region Hotel de Region—Centre Ribeur F-59555 LILLE Cedex	Caisse des Depots et Consignations Departement Gestion Sous Mandat15 Quai Anatole75356 Paris 07 SP—France	CICC5 Place des Vins de France 75012 Paris-France
Manche			
(Channel Programme)	Region Haute-Normandie Hotel de Region 5 rue Schuman BP1129 76174 Rouen Cedex 1 France	Caisse des Depots et Consignations Departement Gestion Sous Mandat15 Quai Anatole75356 Paris 07 SP—France	CICC 5 Place des Vins de France 75012 Paris-France
Interreg IVB			
Atlantic Area	CCDR-N Rua Rainha D. Estefania, 251 4150-034 Porto Portugal	Instituto Financeiro para o Desenvolvimento Regional, IP Rua de Sao Joao 63 1149-030 Lisboa Portugal	Inspecao-Geral de Finances Rua Angelina Vidal, 41 1199-005 Lisboa Portugal
North Sea Region	Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority Dahlerups Pakhus Langelinie Alle 17 DK-2100	The Central Denmark Region Accounts Dept Skottenborg 26 DK-8800	Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority ERDF Control Unit Dahlerups Pakhus Langelinie Alle 17 DK-2100
North West Europe	The Nord-Pas de Calais Region 45, rue de Tournai Entrees D F-5900	Caisse des Depots et Consignations 15 Quai Anatole France75356 Paris 07 SP France	CICC Immeuble Atrium 5, Place des Vins de France 75573 Paris Cedex 12 France
Interreg IVC	Counsell Regional Nord—Pas de Nord Hotel de Region 59555 Lille Cedex 1 France	Caisse des Depots et Consignations 15 Quai Anatole France 75356 Paris 07 SP France	CICC Immeuble Atrium 5, Place des Vins de France 75573 Paris Cedex 12 France

Government Procurement Card

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department holds records of individual transactions made in respect of her Department using the Government Procurement Card. [245906]

Mr. Khan: The Department holds the originals of the monthly paper statements, and copies are held centrally, relating to all Government Procurement Card transactions made by its cardholders. These statements provide details relating to the suppliers being used, when the transaction occurred and how much was spent per transaction.

In addition, the cardholders or their associated finance teams will hold the specific receipts or invoices relating to those purchases which will detail what exactly was purchased in each transaction with the relevant supplier.

Green Belt: York

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the proposed change in the *(a)* scale and *(b)* extent of the green belt around York arising from proposal YH9 of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy. [246068]

Mr. Iain Wright: The principle of land being identified for the purposes of green belt around York has not altered as a result of the recent publication of the Yorkshire and Humber RSS (May 2008). In addition, RSS does not propose that the general extent of the green belt should be altered around York. York city council is however required by Policy YH9 of RSS to consider the setting of the historic city and long term development needs of the local authority area when identifying the inner green belt boundary.

It is the responsibility of local planning authorities to identify detailed green belt boundaries. York city council is currently in the process of preparing a local development framework for the district. This document will for the first time identify detailed green belt boundaries within the city that will determine the precise extent of land identified for the purposes of green belt policy.

Homelessness

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homelessness applications were made in each of the last three years *(a)* in total, *(b)* by those aged between 16 and 24 years old and *(c)* by those aged 24 years old and more in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England. [245678]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Districts within North Yorkshire are Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. In addition, information is provided for the unitary authority of York. Information is not collected at constituency level, and the Vale of York constituency lies within Hambleton, Harrogate and York.

Data collected include all decisions made on applications by eligible applicants, and the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

A table showing data on applications by eligible households in all age groups for the last three years, as reported by local authorities, has been placed in the Library. The figures for England and North Yorkshire are shown in the following table.

Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, England and North Yorkshire

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
England	213,290	159,330	130,840
Craven	91	85	100
Hambleton	128	132	115
Harrogate	370	208	185
Richmondshire	[1]—	141	172
Ryedale	174	79	58
Scarborough	319	288	210
Selby	170	227	166
York	600	469	403

[1] Data not reported by local authority

Data on applications by age band are not held centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated for Social Homebuy in each of the next three years. [246718]

Mr. Iain Wright: Social HomeBuy is a demand-led product and as such there is no specific allocation within the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme for 2008-11 for this product. Registered Social Landlords who choose to offer Social HomeBuy bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for grant to cover the discount offered to the tenant.

Housing: Sales

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bids her Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* approved for the purchase of unsold private housing, broken down by (i) local authority area, (ii) type of property and (iii) type of purchaser. [246786]

Mr. Iain Wright: As of 22 December 2008 the Homes and Communities Agency had received bids to the value of over £260 million to purchase unsold developer stock. From these bids they have approved a total of around £159 million.

A table has been deposited in the Library showing the total grant provided by local authority broken down by social rent and low cost home ownership and by type of property. All of these properties are being purchased by registered social landlords.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has given to local planning authorities on the application of dwelling space standards. [245905]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Planning Policy Statement 3: 'Housing' (PPS3) is clear on the need to achieve high quality housing and encourages local planning authorities to draw on relevant guidance including 'Better Places to Live: By Design (2001)' which covers aspects such as the internal layout and use of dwelling space. However, the Government have not provided specific guidance to local planning authorities on the application of dwelling space standards.

Improvement and Development Agency

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff the Improvement and Development Agency employs; how many staff work on cohesion, integration and migration issues; and what the cost of employing staff working on cohesion, integration and migration issues is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the subsequent two years. [245528]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not hold information on the number of staff at the Improvement and Development Agency employs as it is owned by the Local Government Association which is a voluntary body organisation acting on behalf of its members, not a government funded organisation.

Local Government: Sustainable Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the status of the revision of Planning Policy Statement 4 is; and if she will make a statement. [245904]

Mr. Iain Wright: The revision to Planning Policy Statement 4, 'Sustainable Economic Development', is currently in draft, and was consulted on in 2008. The Government are currently considering the responses to the consultation. A summary of consultation responses was published on 8 August, 2008. When issued in its final form the statement will have the status of national planning policy.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many former prisoners are employed by her Department; and what her Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246350]

Mr. Khan: All new recruits to Communities and Local Government are required to complete a Criminal Record Declaration Form which is then kept on their personal file. The Department does not keep a central record of former prisoners.

The Department's policy on employing former prisoners complies with the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974).

Opencast Mining: Planning Permission

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on the production of health impact assessments relating to opencast coal mining planning applications; [246421]

(2) how many planning applications for opencast coal mining in the UK have had health impact assessments produced as part of the process over the last 10 years. [246422]

Mr. Iain Wright: Environmental impact assessments for opencast coal mining proposals should identify all the likely significant impacts associated with the development and how they will be controlled or be subject to mitigation. These impacts will include those which may have a direct effect on people, including impacts on health.

Government planning policy on controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of minerals extraction is set out in Minerals Policy Statement 2 (MPS2) and its associated annexes on dust and noise. MPS2 clearly states that where effective mitigation of unacceptable impacts through planning conditions or obligations is not possible, planning permission for a development should be refused.

Information on the number of planning applications for opencast coal mining with Environmental Impact Assessments (including those covering impacts on health) is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many opencast coal mining planning applications have been decided *(a)* by local authorities and *(b)* following call-ins during the last 10 years. [246424]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of opencast coal mining applications decided by local authorities is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Only one opencast coal application has been decided in the last 10 years following call-in of the planning application by the Secretary of State. This was the Cutacre opencast coal site, between Over Hulton and Lower Hulton in Wigan Metropolitan borough council. This was decided in July 2001.

Ordnance Survey

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the market value of the Ordnance Survey. [242703]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ordnance Survey's net assets as set out in its 2007-08 annual report and accounts were approximately £82 million. Estimates of the market value of individual Government-owned businesses, including the Ordnance Survey, are commercially sensitive. Their publication could prejudice the delivery of best value for money to the taxpayer in the management of its assets.

Ordnance Survey: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W, on Valuation Office: databases, if she will place in the Library a copy of the specification

and plans used by Ordnance Survey to align the databases. [246943]

Mr. Iain Wright: There is no published specification or plan for the database alignment work being undertaken by Ordnance Survey, as this work involves a process of continuous improvement, based upon an evolving specification. This has been continuously developed as the project has progressed. The result is a pattern of work-flow based upon the outputs of an address matching software 'engine' and manual editing.

To ensure better cross-Government standardisation of address data, and to support the principles of the Digital National Framework (DNF), this cross reference table (X-ref) is available free of charge to any organisation, whether they are an Ordnance Survey customer or not.

I have today placed a copy of the current version of 'X-ref' in the Library of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W, on Valuation Office: databases, what the estimated cost to Ordnance Survey of the database alignment exercise is. [246944]

Mr. Iain Wright: The work of database alignment forms one part of Ordnance Survey's continuous process of product development and enhancement, which involves a number of integrated processes, and as such the costs of this specific aspect are not presently recorded separately. Doing this at the present time could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Ordnance Survey: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided for Ordnance Survey to meet the costs of staff salaries in the last 12 months. [245960]

Mr. Iain Wright: As a trading fund, Ordnance Survey is a public body subject to the Civil Service Pay Guidance released annually by HM Treasury. Ordnance Survey is therefore part of the civil service pay remit process, in which HM Treasury approves a pay remit for Ordnance Survey in line with Government policy on public sector pay settlements.

The current Ordnance Survey pay remit approved by HM Treasury on 6 December 2007 covers a three year settlement for the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and includes arrangements for transition to a new reward structure designed to address a number of longer term reward issues.

The remit reflects the individual labour market position of Ordnance Survey's work force, particularly the recruitment and retention position; consistency with the achievement by the Bank of England of its CPI inflation target of 2 per cent. affordability by Ordnance Survey; and value for money for stakeholders. It was reviewed by HM Treasury in October 2008, and reconfirmed.

Planning Obligations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have not spent any Section 106 moneys on capital programmes within their districts in the latest period for which figures are available. [246864]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the value of Section 106 moneys not spent on capital programmes by each local authority is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced research reports into the value of planning obligations in England for 2003-04 and 2005-06 based on a sample of authorities across the country. These reports are available on the Department's website. New research covering 2007-08 has been commissioned and will be published in the summer.

The research report for 2005-06 estimated that of £4 billion in planning obligation agreements, approximately £3 billion would have been delivered in practice. The shortfall would have been due to the fact that not all of the permissions to which the agreements were attached would be implemented and some others would be renegotiated. The table below shows how the estimated £4 billion was categorised.

The total value of planning obligations in 2005-06 (£)

		Percentage of total
Open Space and the Environment	215,684,473	5
Transport and Travel	361,956,329	9
Community Works and Leisure	75,439,392	2
Education	154,053,871	4
Other	149,893,307	4
County Councils (est)	10,000,000	<1
Max Land Contributions	960,000,000	24
Affordable Housing	2,000,000,000	50
Estimated Total Value	£4 billion	

As stated in the answer to your earlier question [240548] appropriate openness over the collection and use of si06 monies is an important element of local authority accountability and the Government recommends in planning Circular 05/05 that authorities keep accurate records which can be used to inform the public. In July, the Government announced in the Empowerment White Paper that it will explore whether more can be done to strengthen this local accountability.

Planning Permission

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department provides to local authorities who receive repeat planning applications which have already been rejected by the planning inspectorate. [243880]

Mr. Iain Wright: Advice on repeat applications is set out in ODPM Circular 08/2005. This notes that local planning authorities have had the power for some time

to decline to determine an application for planning permission which was the same or substantially the same as an application that, within the previous two years, the Secretary of State had called in and refused or had dismissed on appeal.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to issue a formal Government response to the Killian Pretty review. [246367]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government will publish a formal response to the recommendations of the Killian Pretty review shortly.

Property Development

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to improve the guidance her Department has issued on the changes to domestic permitted development rights; and if she will make a statement. [245605]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance on the new householder permitted development rights effective from 1 October 2008 is available via the 'interactive house' on the Planning Portal. In addition, on 16 December the Department's chief planner wrote to all local planning authorities to inform them that we have posted a schedule of frequently-asked questions on the Planning Portal website. This information can be found at:

http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/clg-pd-faq.pdf

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local planning authorities have made it their policy to recommend to householders that they obtain a certificate of lawfulness before exercising their permitted development rights in respect of household extensions. [246343]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Rented Housing: Construction

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new local authority and housing association dwellings were started in England in each year since 1979-80. [245979]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of annual house building starts in England, for local authority and registered social landlords dwellings each year since 1979-80.

	Local authority starts	*Registered social landlords starts*
1979-80	9,470	3,250
1980-81	29,400	11,050
1981-82	23,870	13,010
1982-83	32,570	14,190
1983-84	27,660	12,260
1984-85	20,690	10,750
1985-86	18,460	10,470
1986-87	17,280	10,620
1987-88	15,060	10,070
1988-89	12,910	11,970
1989-90	11,970	11,520
1990-91	5,490	14,180
1991-92	2,330	20,070
1992-93	1,620	30,360
1993-94	880	33,260
1994-95	510	31,230
1995-96	520	24,320
1996-97	400	22,900
1997-98	260	19,630
1998-99	130	17,550
1999-2000	150	15,940
2000-01	210	12,840
2001-02	120	11,060
2002-03	160	10,910
2003-04	280	12,350
2004-05	210	14,390
2005-06	250	17,230
2006-07	200	16,850
2007-08	250	15,750

Source:
New build starts from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council to CLG.

Rents

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to the need for further reform of legislation on rent reviews; and if she will make a statement. [246044]

Mr. Iain Wright: While the terms of commercial leases, including rents, are set by agreement between landlords and tenants, Government are concerned that lease terms should not constrain flexibility in the commercial property market. In 2007, at our request, the property industry introduced a revised stronger code of practice which, among other matters, makes recommendations to landlords about the arrangements for commercial rent reviews. This "Code for Leasing Business Premises in England and Wales 2007", is voluntary. However, Government are monitoring the use and impact of the code, and will evaluate the outcome to see if it has made a difference to industry practice. Government remain committed to lease reform and has not ruled out legislation as an option.

Repossession Orders

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates she held meetings with *(a)* HBOS, *(b)* Nationwide, *(c)* Abbey, *(d)* Lloyds TSB, *(e)* Northern Rock, *(f)* Barclays, *(g)* RBS and *(h)* HSBC on the Government's repossessions policy before its announcement on 3 December 2008. [245610]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government held productive discussions with all eight lenders mentioned in the days ahead of the 3 December announcement and agreed with them their support in principle to the homeowner mortgage

support scheme. We have since been working with these, other lenders and the trade bodies to develop the detail of the scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords,* column WA97, on housing: repossession, on what dates each regional summit was held; which local authorities attended each summit; and if she will place in the Library a copy of each of the handouts and presentations from the summits. [246037]

Mr. Iain Wright: On 2 September, the Government announced £200 million for a mortgage rescue scheme to help vulnerable people facing repossession remain in their home, where possible. Government are working closely with key delivery partners to ensure the scheme is operational as soon as possible.

Communities and Local Government has held a series of regional summits at Government office level to explain the mortgage rescue scheme. All local authorities were invited to attend on a voluntary basis. Regional summits were held on the following dates:

East Midlands (Nottingham): 18 September

West Midlands (Birmingham): 23 September

North East (Newcastle): 9 October

South West (Exeter): 16 October

Yorkshire and Humberside (Leeds): 22 October

North West (Manchester): 27 October

South East (Crawley): 7 November

London: 13 November

East (Cambridge): 14 November

Presentations used at each regional summit were used to inform policy development. Government are currently consulting all local authorities on a guidance note providing a step-by-step guide on how to set up and operate the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. This will be issued in January 2009.

Right To Buy Scheme: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much local authority housing stock in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* London has been sold under the right-to-buy scheme in each year since 1997. [244752]

Mr. Iain Wright: The London borough of Bexley transferred its housing stock to registered social landlords (RSLs) in February 1998. There have consequently been no sales of local authority housing stock under the right to buy scheme in Bexley since that date.

The preserved right to buy is available to tenants of RSLs who were formerly secure tenants of local authorities and have moved to RSL landlords with their homes under the terms of stock transfers. Figures for preserved right to buy sales alone are not available at local authority level, but combined figures for RSL right to buy, preserved right to buy and right to acquire sales are available, and the following table shows these figures for the London borough of Bexley:

	RSL sales of social housing in the London borough of Bexley
2001-02	123
2002-03	129
2003-04	126
2004-05	51
2005-06	14
2006-07	11
2007-08	13

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Returns from Registered Social Landlords to the Housing Corporation.

The following table shows the number of local authority right to buy sales and RSL social housing sales (preserved right to buy, right to buy, right to acquire) by London boroughs in each year since 1997-98:

	Local authority right to buy sales in London[1]	*RSL sales of social housing in London*[2]
1997-98	7,123	—
1998-99	8,045	—
1999-00	11,331	—
2000-01	11,439	—
2001-02	9,817	788
2002-03	11,608	976
2003-04	12,778	1,246
2004-05	10,691	858
2005-06	4,042	361
2006-07	2,221	339
2007-08	1,835	331

[1] PIB figures for London include imputed figures for missing quarterly returns from any of the local authorities in London.
[2] RSR figures include combined RSL sales through the right to buy, preserved right to buy and right to acquire schemes. Figures are not available for RSL social housing sales before 2001-02.
Source:
Quarterly PIB returns from local authorities, and Regulatory and Statistical Returns (RSR) from Registered Social Landlords to the Housing Corporation.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the methodology used to *(a)* calculate and *(b)* count rough sleeping in the last 36 months; and what changes her Department is considering. [246049]

Mr. Iain Wright: Rough sleeping counts provide an effective tool by which we can monitor and demonstrate progress in reducing rough sleeping levels. They give us an indicator of the relative extent of the problem between areas and over time. In 2007, we consulted on and strengthened the methodology by, for example, introducing verifiers.

While we will keep the local counts as a useful measure, we know that they provide a limited snapshot. They should be the start of the process not the end. In the new rough sleeping strategy "No One Left Out" published in November 2008, we set out plans to launch a new approach to help local authorities monitor progress and track people sleeping rough, ensuring that counts are not just an opportunity to identify levels of need but more importantly to do something about it. It is important that we are clear that the headline figure is the total of the counts undertaken during the year. We will no longer ask local authorities that do not count to provide an annual estimate in their annual housing statistics return.

Specialist Cohesion Team

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in the roll out of Specialist Cohesion Team pilots; how much the teams *(a)* have cost to date and *(b)* are expected to cost in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; how the pilots will be assessed; and if she will make a statement. [245544]

Mr. Khan: Specialist Cohesion Team (SCTs) pilots are under way in two local authorities: Breckland and Barnsley. Both pilots commenced in July 2008 and end January 2009. Both pilots are making good progress, according to their individual terms of reference.

CLG has allocated up to £200,000 in 2008-09 from programme funding to deliver and independently evaluate the SCT pilots. Costs for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are yet to be decided.

Separate reports will be produced for both areas in February 2009.

An independent evaluation of both pilots will commence in January 2009.

Temporary Accommodation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in the Peterborough City council area were in temporary accommodation on 30 September (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [245797]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the numbers of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which enquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of dependent children (or expected children) in these households is also collected, but data on the number of adults is not. The figures for total households, total number of families and total children in temporary accommodation, reported by Peterborough City council, as at 30 September in 2005 to 2008, are shown in the following table.

Households in temporary accommodation, and number of children within these households, in Peterborough local authority as at 30 September, 2005 to 2008

	Total households in TA arranged by authority	*Total number of households with dependent children*	*Total children (and expected children) within these households*
2005	83	56	93
2006	77	40	81
2007	67	30	37
2008	81	33	55

Tenants: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of levels of satisfaction amongst *(a)* private rented sector tenants and *(b)* other tenants in London. [246599]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on the Survey of English Housing, the estimated levels of tenant satisfaction in London during 2006-07 amongst *(a)* private tenants and *(b)* social tenants were as follows:

Percentage

	Proportion of tenants satisfied with their landlord	*Proportion of tenants satisfied with their accommodation*
(a) Private tenants in London	73	80
(b) Social tenants in London	66	77

Source:
Survey of English Housing, 2006/07

Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of unauthorised Traveller sites in England. [246370]

Mr. Iain Wright: In July 2008 local authorities recorded 981 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller sites in England.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which areas reviews of Green Belt and the provision of Traveller sites are recommended in draft regional spatial strategies. [246371]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are currently four draft regional spatial strategies (RSS) undergoing revisions.

East Midlands:

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The draft RSS recommends a review of the most sustainable locations for growth within the Nottingham Core Housing Market Area over the next 25 years, which may include considering locations within the Green Belt.

This review needs to be done as part of the evidence base underpinning the next RSS review.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft East Midlands RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches required in the region and it is up to local authorities to identify specific locations in local plans.

West Midlands Phase 2 and Phase 3:

The West Midlands is taking a phased approach to the revision of its RSS.

Consultation on Phase 2 is completed and it will be submitted to an Examination in Public in Spring 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The draft Phase 2 West Midlands regional spatial strategy identifies the need for review of Green Belt round Coventry and Redditch.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The provision of traveller pitches will be addressed in Phase 3 of the RSS review. The West Midlands Regional Assembly are currently developing option papers for Phase 3 and have yet to commence consultation.

South East:

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The Government's Proposed Changes included proposals for selective Green Belt review at Oxford and Guildford, and possibly south of Woking, plus small scale reviews at Chertesy and Redhill/ Reigate.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft South East RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches required across the region, however it is up to the local authorities to identify the specific location of traveller sites in local plans.

South West:

The Government are currently considering representations made on the Proposed Changes and are working towards the final issue of the RSS in 2009.

Review of Green Belts recommended

The Proposed Changes included proposals to revise the Bristol and Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham and South East Dorset Green Belts.

Provision of traveller pitches recommended

The Draft South West RSS sets out the number of traveller pitches for each local authority area, however it is up to the local authorities to identify the specific location of traveller sites in local plans.

Four RSSs have already been issued by the Secretary of State and the West Midlands (Phase 1) RSS:

15 January 2008—West Midlands (Phase 1) Black Country sub-regional plan

12 May 2008—East of England

21 May 2008—Yorkshire and Humber

15 July 2008—North East

30 September 2008—North West

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has issued guidance to local authorities on using semi-rural and rural land to provide Traveller sites. [245993]

Mr. Iain Wright: Guidance to local authorities on the use of semi-rural or rural land for Gypsy and Traveller Sites is contained in ODPM Circular 01/2006 'Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites'.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future programme: Sixth Form Colleges

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether sixth form colleges will be included under the Building Schools for the Future programme after 2010; and if he will make a statement. [242008]

Jim Knight: In "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver" (published March 2008), we stated our intention to bring sixth form colleges within the scope of the Building Schools for the Future programme, so that they can be part of securing the area-wide entitlement. This remains our position, and we are considering the details along with the key partner organisations involved.

Case Reviews

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what procedures his Department has in place for reviewing serious case reviews; and what guidance he has given his officials on the circumstances in which such reviews should be drawn to the attention of Ministers. [240486]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for notifying Ofsted of serious incidents involving children. This includes cases which then become the subject of a serious case review (SCR). When a review is complete the report is then evaluated by Ofsted. DCSF Children and Learners teams in the regional government offices have a support and challenge role in relation to SCRs, in particular with respect to the implementation by Local Safeguarding Children Boards and local agencies of recommendations in individual reports. They also provide briefing to officials in the DCSF, to enable them to keep Ministers informed of overall progress. But Ministers are not involved in the SCR process and do not see draft SCR reports or take any decisions until that process is complete and the executive summary is made public. Ministers have vested in them a range of statutory powers in relation to local authorities, including intervention powers, and it is important that they allow the SCR process to take its course.

Children in Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what rules apply to the out-of-county placement of vulnerable *(a)* adults and *(b)* children; what procedures are employed to monitor such placements; and how the costs of such placements are shared. [244268]

Beverley Hughes: This reply relates to England only.

(a) The Department of Health is responsible for the framework relating to the accommodation and support of vulnerable adults who are assessed as requiring community care services. We will forward my hon. Friend's enquiry to that Department so that he can receive a written reply to part *(a)* of his question.

(b) There are extensive regulations and guidance setting out local authority responsibilities towards all children that they look after. The placing local authority will always remain responsible for maintaining the child's care plan setting out how the authority will arrange the services necessary to meet to their assessment the child's needs. However, where children are placed out of their responsible local authority, the local authorities involved will need to take into account the regulations below that provide information about funding responsibilities for health and education services.

The arrangements for provision of and payment for health care for looked after children placed out-of-authority children are set out in statutory guidance "Establishing the Responsible Commissioner: Guidance for PCT commissioners on the application of the legal framework on PCT's secondary care responsibilities" which was issued in 2006.

"The Education (Areas to which Pupils and Students Belong) Regulations 1996" specify arrangements for funding when a pupil living in one local authority area is ordinarily resident in a different local area. These regulations apply to any pupil, including looked after children living in "out of authority" placements.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many women in prison have children in the care of *(a)* social services and *(b)* another guardian. [244505]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The National Offender Management Service does not routinely keep information on the number of prisoners with children in the care of either social services or another guardian. However, the Corston Report (March 2007) referred to 12 per cent. of women prisoners' children being in care or with foster parents or adopted.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children have been placed out of area by each social services department in England since 2005-06; [244850]

(2) what the average distance was between the relevant social service area and the placement of children subject to out of area arrangements with regard to each social services department in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [244849]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children in care in each local authority who have been placed out of area by each social services department in England for the years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008 and the average distance between their home address and placement, at 31 March 2008, has been placed in both the Libraries.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in the care system are placed in residential children's homes. [245277]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children in the care system that are placed in residential children's homes can be found in table A3, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of children looked after at the 31 March for 2004 to 2008 by placement.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml.

and table A3 can be found within the excel link labelled National Tables.

Children in Care: Custodial Treatment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many prisoners in England were previously children in care at any time during their lives and received a custodial sentence when they were juveniles. [244506]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the total number of prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales who were in local authority care at some point when under the age of 16 is not centrally available.

However, a social exclusion unit report "Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners" published in 2002 reported that 27 per cent. of the prison population had been taken into care as a child against an average across the general population of 2 per cent.

We are not able to give the information requested regarding who of those in care had also received custodial sentences while juveniles.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care in each local authority area have gone missing in each of the last five years. [245242]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children in care in each local authority who have gone missing is available for the past four years.

Information for years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008 can be found in table LAB5, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008.'

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/FinalDecemberTables.xls

Information for year ending 31 March 2005 can be found in table LAB5, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/fourthadditionaltables.xls

Children in Care: Pupil Exclusions

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many looked after children in each local education authority (LEA) have been permanently excluded by the head teacher of their school since 2005; how many of those in each LEA while officially permanently excluded remain on their original schools' rolls; and how many of them in each LEA are being educated at other establishments while permanently excluded from their original school. [245604]

Beverley Hughes: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on exclusions from school at local authority level can be found in table 1 (in the second excel link) which shows the number of permanent exclusions during the previous school year. The OC2 data collection is an aggregate data collection from local authorities and it is therefore not possible to provide this information broken down by how many children, while officially permanently excluded remain on the original school rolls or are being educated at other establishments.

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were subject to abuse whilst subject to a child protection plan in each of the last five years. [244554]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Information on the number of children who were subject to abuse while subject to a child protection plan is not collected nationally.

Table 1 shows the number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2008, according to the category of abuse which led to the plan being put in place, for the years 2004 to 2008.

Table 1: Children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan (CPP), by category of abuse[1,2], years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008

Coverage: England

	Number					Percentage				
Category of abuse	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All children	26,300	25,900	26,400	27,900	29,200	100	100	100	100	100
Neglect	11,000	11,400	11,800	12,500	13,400	42	44	45	45	46
Physical abuse	4,100	3,900	3,600	3,500	3,400	15	15	14	12	12
Sexual abuse	2,500	2,400	2,300	2,000	2,000	9	9	9	7	7
Emotional abuse	5,100	5,200	6,000	7,100	7,900	20	20	23	25	27
Multiple/not recommended by 'Working Together'[3]	3,600	3,000	2,700	2,700	2,500	14	12	10	10	9

[1] Figures may not add due to rounding.
[2] This table includes unborn children.
[3] 'Multiple' refers to instances where there is more than one main category of abuse. These children are not counted under the other abuse headings, so a child can appear only once in this table. 'Not recommended' refers to classificatory categories not recommended by 'Working Together' (1999).

Source:
CPR3

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans or placed on the Child Protection Register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 24/2008 "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—Year ending 31 March 2008" on 16 September 2008. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Children: Care Homes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's homes there were in each local authority area of England on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many places in such homes were available in each local authority area. [244851]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 23 December 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

The table attached displays the number of children's homes and the maximum number of registered places available within the geographical boundaries of each of the local authorities in England. I should emphasise that these are the number of homes geographically located in each area i.e. the figures include private and voluntary run homes. These figures were taken from data available at 30 September 2008 and only include children's homes which were active at that point in time. No registered places data were available for five out of the 1976 children's homes (0.25%) and these are noted in the table below.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children's homes providers and registered number of places for local authorities at the end of September 2008

Local authority	Children's homes end of September 2008	Maximum places end of September 2008	Children's homes without data on places at end of September 2008
Barking and Dagenham	3	17	0
Barnet	4	20	0
Barnsley	16	99	0
Bath and NE Somerset	1	5	0
Bedfordshire	12	63	0
Bexley	1	10	0
Birmingham	51	282	2
Blackburn	10	40	0
Blackpool	15	84	0
Bolton	11	57	0
Bournemouth	4	17	0
Bracknell Forest	5	22	0
Bradford	16	122	0
Brent	6	27	0
Brighton and Hove	8	46	0
Bristol City	18	130	0
Bromley	5	69	0
Buckinghamshire	9	87	0
Bury	8	33	0
Calderdale	12	59	0
Cambridgeshire	29	156	0
Camden	1	8	0
Cheshire	14	173	0
City of London	0	0	0
Cornwall	21	106	0
Coventry	9	59	0
Croydon	16	108	0
Cumbria	23	351	0
Darlington	10	41	0
Derby, City of	11	74	0
Derbyshire	31	221	0
Devon	42	298	0
Doncaster	13	138	0
Dorset	11	159	0
Dudley	11	52	0
Durham	19	114	0
Ealing	6	37	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	9	59	0
East Sussex	21	143	0
Enfield	4	16	0
Essex	23	202	0
Gateshead	6	27	0
Gloucestershire	24	153	0
Greenwich	5	24	0
Hackney	2	8	0
Halton	16	38	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	19	0
Hampshire	27	246	0
Haringey	9	50	0
Harrow	4	25	0
Hartlepool	3	22	0
Havering	4	37	0
Herefordshire	7	152	0
Hertfordshire	16	83	0
Hillingdon	5	38	0
Hounslow	3	15	0

Children's homes providers and registered number of places for local authorities at the end of September 2008

Local authority	Children's homes end of September 2008	Maximum places end of September 2008	Children's homes without data on places at end of September 2008
Isle of Wight	2	5	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Islington	3	18	0
Kensington and Chelsea	2	18	0
Kent	67	376	0
Kingston upon Hull	10	67	0
Kingston upon Thames	1	16	0
Kirklees	11	96	0
Knowsley	8	23	0
Lambeth	8	36	0
Lancashire	91	465	0
Leeds	21	177	0
Leicester City	6	45	0
Leicestershire	26	93	0
Lewisham	9	50	0
Lincolnshire	27	155	0
Liverpool	25	113	0
Luton	5	29	0
Manchester	31	173	0
Medway Towns	3	21	0
Merton	5	22	0
Middlesbrough	5	24	0
Milton Keynes	4	24	0
Newcastle	8	51	0
Newham	8	47	0
Norfolk	32	176	1
North East Lincolnshire	10	42	0
North Lincolnshire	5	50	0
North Somerset	1	4	0
North Tyneside	6	25	0
North Yorkshire	15	111	0
Northamptonshire	17	119	0
Northumberland	15	79	0
Nottingham City	15	80	0
Nottinghamshire	20	111	0
Oldham	11	52	0
Oxfordshire	12	124	0
Peterborough	10	62	0
Plymouth	4	10	0
Poole	1	25	0
Portsmouth	7	35	0
Reading	3	15	0
Redbridge	9	56	0
Redcar and Cleveland	3	14	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0
Rochdale	41	77	1
Rotherham	7	38	0
Rutland	1	11	0
Salford	21	104	0
Sandwell	6	25	0
Sefton	25	153	0
Sheffield	16	85	0

Children's homes providers and registered number of places for local authorities at the end of September 2008

Local authority	*Children's homes end of September 2008*	*Maximum places end of September 2008*	*Children's homes without data on places at end of September 2008*
Shropshire	66	273	0
Slough	3	19	0
Solihull	2	9	0
Somerset	53	210	0
South Gloucestershire	9	70	0
South Tyneside	2	15	0
Southampton	8	102	0
Southend on Sea	4	24	0
Southwark	3	17	0
St. Helens	24	160	0
Staffordshire	63	252	0
Stockport	31	204	0
Stockton on Tees	5	33	0
Stoke on Trent	23	58	1
Suffolk	17	155	0
Sunderland	11	110	0
Surrey	26	266	0
Sutton	1	3	0
Swindon	1	2	0
Tameside	17	78	0
Telford and Wrekin	29	99	0
Thurrock	1	6	0
Torbay	7	27	0
Tower Hamlets	3	20	0
Trafford	9	47	0
Wakefield	11	49	0
Walsall	13	60	0
Waltham Forest	15	66	0
Wandsworth	5	48	0
Warrington	16	49	0
Warwickshire	7	51	0
West Berkshire (Newbury)	7	100	0
West Sussex	40	205	0
Westminster	1	6	0
Wigan	10	44	0
Wiltshire	16	98	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0
Wirral	15	51	0
Wokingham	7	40	0
Wolverhampton	12	61	0
Worcestershire	10	136	0
York	2	15	0
Total	1,976	11,906	5

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many early years providers had an inadequate care judgment on more than one occasion in each year since 2005; [241077]

(2) how many nurseries Ofsted has prosecuted in each year since 2005; [241078]

(3) how many registrations of nurseries Ofsted *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* suspended in each year since 2005; [241079]

(4) how many early years providers had one or more inspection outcomes that resulted in enforcement action against them in each year since 2005. [241080]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* These are matters for Ofsted. The chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies will be placed in the Library.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding will be provided to *(a)* Romsey constituency, *(b)* the City of Southampton and *(c)* Test Valley Borough under the free childcare for training and learning for work scheme in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [243933]

Beverley Hughes: Free child care for training and learning for work, will be delivered by the Learning and Skills Council, rather than by local authorities. There will, accordingly be no funding allocations at local authority or sub-local authority level. Funding will be made available on the basis of demand across the country as a whole.

Children: Disadvantaged

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of children who are entitled to free school meals in each *(a)* ward and *(b)* lower super output area. [245008]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department holds data on the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals who attended maintained schools in England. Tables showing the number of pupils who are eligible for free school meals in each ward and lower super output area in England have been placed in both the Libraries.

Children: Protection

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of Lord Laming's recommendations made in the report of the Victoria Climbié inquiry are yet to be implemented; and how many were implemented within the recommended timescales. [241893]

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and which of Lord Laming's 108 recommendations made in the Victoria Climbié inquiry are yet to be implemented; and how many of them were implemented within the advised timescales. [241558]

Beverley Hughes: This Government launched a radical programme of reform in response to Lord Laming's Inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Through the Children Act 2004 we have put in place a much stronger framework for children's services and particularly for safeguarding children. The Government's detailed response to the recommendations of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry

Report was set out in "Keeping Children Safe" which was published in 2003, alongside the Green Paper "Every Child Matters".

The actions the Government committed to undertaking in response to Lord Laming's recommendations have been carried out or are in progress; the one exception is the revision of guidance on the Children Act 1989. Volume 1, on Court Orders, has been revised and published, and many of the key messages which "Keeping Children Safe" said were to be incorporated in the revised Children Act 1989 guidance have been incorporated into other guidance documents and standards. We plan to revise further volumes of the 1989 guidance next year, taking into account commitments announced in Care Matters: Time for Change, legislative changes through the Children and Young Persons Act 2008, and proposed revisions to the National Minimum Standards for children's social care.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to increase the level of co-operative working between officials in his Department and health visitors on policies relating to safeguarding children. [244688]

Beverley Hughes: While responsibility for the recruitment, training and deployment of community nurses, including health visitors, falls to primary care trusts and is therefore under the oversight of the Department of Health (DH), my Department works closely with DH, health visitors and their representative body in particular in the development and implementation of health and safeguarding policies.

Children's Trusts are the local partnerships which bring together the organisations responsible for services for children and families, including NHS bodies which employ health visitors, in a shared commitment to improve children's lives. The Government are working to strengthen Children's Trusts through revised statutory guidance issued on 18 November and further legislation.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were killed or injured in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber between April 2007 and August 2008; how many of these were on the Child Protection Register; and if he will make a statement. [244782]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children killed or injured in each local authority area is not collected centrally. The Office for National Statistics collects information on the number of child deaths by local authority. Table 1 shows the count of deaths in children aged 0 to 17 for each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Table 1: Counts of deaths[1,2] in children aged 0 to 17 years for each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber, 2007

	Deaths
Yorks and the Humber	562
Barnsley	18
Bradford	103
Calderdale	21
Doncaster	37
East Riding of Yorkshire	16
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	23
Kirklees	57
Leeds	80
North East Lincolnshire	19
North Lincolnshire	12
North Yorkshire	40
Rotherham	27
Sheffield	63
Wakefield	28
York	18

[1] Based on the calendar year 2007
[2] Deaths are assigned to the latest 2008 boundaries
Source:
ONS

The available information on children subject to child protection plans is shown in the following table.

Table 2 shows the number of children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan at 31 March 2008, in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Table 2: Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan—year ending 31 March 2008

	Number
Yorks and the Humber	2,835
Barnsley	150
Bradford	255
Calderdale	135
Doncaster	325
East Riding of Yorkshire	110
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	125
Kirklees	215
Leeds	405
North East Lincolnshire	90
North Lincolnshire	90
North Yorkshire	130
Rotherham	235
Sheffield	285
Wakefield	210
York	80

[1] Includes unborn children.

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to Child Protection Plans or placed on the Child Protection Register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 24/2008 'Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—Year ending 31 March 2008' on 16 September 2008. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to prevent the occurrence of child abuse in the North East. [245004]

Beverley Hughes: This Government launched a radical programme of national reform in response to Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. Through the Children Act 2004 we have put in place a much stronger framework for children's services and particularly for safeguarding children. The Government's detailed response to the recommendations of the Victoria

Climbié inquiry report was set out in 'Keeping Children Safe' which was published in 2003, alongside the Green Paper 'Every Child Matters'. In November 2008 Lord Laming was asked to prepare an independent report of progress being made across the country in implementing the safeguarding reforms introduced in response to his original recommendations. His findings will be submitted early next year.

The Government have also announced that all Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) responsible for serious case reviews (SCRs) which have been judged inadequate are being asked to convene an independently chaired panel to reconsider the review. This process will be applied to any future SCRs which are assessed to be inadequate. In addition, Ofsted will carry out unannounced annual inspections of children's services across the country.

The Government office for the north-east monitors the performance of local authorities in the region and their partners on all outcomes of 'Every Child Matters', including on Staying Safe. Over the coming months there will be a particular focus on LSCBs' performance in relation to managing SCRs and improving the quality of the reviews and reports.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of its capacity to adapt to climate change; and what plans he has to publish a climate change adaptation strategy. [241178]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In July 2008, the cross-Government Adapting to Climate Change Programme published Adapting to climate change in England—a framework for action which set out the Government's strategy for adaptation and the work-plan for the cross-Government Programme for the next three years. This programme increases Government's capacity to adapt by ensuring a co-ordinated approach across all Departments and the public sector, and overall responsibility for it rests with DEFRA. Information about the Programme and its work can be found at:

www.defra.gov/adaptation

This includes taking forward work flowing from the Climate Change Act—including a national Climate Change Risk Assessment and cost benefit analysis which will inform future priorities for the statutory adaptation programme that will then begin in 2012.

The Government's longer term strategy on adapting to a changing climate will be set out in this statutory National Adaptation Programme, which will be reviewed and updated on a five year rolling basis in response to updated risk assessments, and report to Parliament.

In addition, DCSF is continuing with its work looking at how a changing climate impacts each of the policy areas it has responsibility for, as well as working towards embedding adaptation into its corporate and policy decision making processes across the Department.

DCSF are aiming for BREEAM excellence and higher for the new builds planned for Sheffield and Darlington sites in 2010 and 2012 respectively, incorporating sustainability in design and construction. [illegible] of BREEAM assessments, as well as being a [illegible] requirement for Government new builds, considers the broad environmental concerns of climate change, resource use and impact on wildlife, balancing these against the need for a high quality, safe and healthy environment.

Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1837-8W, on coastal areas, what matters his Department has placed on the agenda of the cross-departmental working group on seaside towns; and if he will make a statement; [244406]

(2) what involvement his Department has had with the Coastal Town Network; at what level his Department is represented; and what issues his Department has raised at the Network. [244852]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families is part of the cross-Government working group on coastal towns and has agreed to send appropriate representatives to its meetings where relevant matters arise. While the Department has not yet placed any issues on its agenda, we are committed to supporting its work to address the challenges faced by coastal towns, including in particular the need to improve educational achievement.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to ensure that staff in schools where safer school partnership officers are in place know about the characteristics that may help identify individuals vulnerable to violent extremism, as referred to in paragraph 148 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise. [245695]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

A number of reviews took place over the summer which sought to draw out learning and emerging practice on the delivery of activity to prevent violent extremism, including the joint Audit Commission and HMIC Learning and Development Exercise (LDE). Though each review had a different focus, together they provide a useful package of learning material upon which local partners can draw and which will inform the Government's approach to Prevent.

There are a number of common themes which run through all these reviews. Some of these require action from national Government, some from local partners and many from both. We have ensured wide distribution of the LDE report to enable local partners to benefit directly from the important learning it contains in taking forward their local Prevent response. We published "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" on 10 December, which sets out the key strands of learning from the reviews and work already underway to address these key themes. We will continue to develop our response to the reviews throughout the year.

I will place a copy of "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" in the Library of the House.

Copyright

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his recent announcement on the extension of copyright term in principle extends to both performers and producers. [246695]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

As the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said at the UK Music Creator's Conference on 11 December, he and the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, have been considering the arguments for an extension for performers from the current 50 years, perhaps to something like 70 years to match more closely a performer's expected lifetime. The debate on changes to the length of copyright term in this area is ongoing in Europe. We must ensure that the outcome of this debate delivers maximum benefits to performers and musicians. That is the test of any model as we go forward.

Curriculum

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take following the recommendations from Sir Jim Rose relating to the school curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [245912]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Sir Jim Rose is leading an independent review of the primary curriculum. His interim report, published on 8 December 2008, made provisional recommendations. The Government look forward to receiving Sir Jim Rose's final report and recommendations in the spring.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many contracts his Department has which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245332]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information of this kind and an answer could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245356]

Jim Knight: The director general of Corporate Services Directorate has formally acted as SIRO since November 2007, but acted as de facto SIRO since taking up the post. The director general of Corporate Services post holder is a DCSF management board member.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of the IT systems in his Department is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245374]

Jim Knight: Currently DCSF have eight systems or environments full accredited with a further two where accreditation is in development at the moment.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [246605]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's Delivery Plan for "Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate", published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the Delivery Plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its work force. [246026]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department holds information on all categories listed. Information on ethnicity, disability, religion and sexual orientation is based on voluntary, self-declaration.

The Department's diversity targets to 2013 and current position are set out in the following table.

Percentage

Under-represented groups	*July to September 2008*	*Target for 2013*
Women in Senior Civil Service (SCS)	47.37	50
Women in top management positions	48.15	50
BME in SCS	1.75	8
Disabled in SCS	2.63	6
Women in feeder grades[1]	51.66	50
BME in feeder grades[1]	6.65	10
Disabled staff feeder grades[1]	6.65	8

[1] Feeder grades are employees in grade 6 and 7. Percentages are based on those who have declared (a number of employees have chosen not to).

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246643]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has existed since June 2007 and is unable, therefore, to provide figures going back to 1997.

The ASA inform the Department about complaints received only when they judge that an investigation is required. They do not routinely notify the Department about the number received.

At our request, the ASA have informed us that since June 2007 to 21 December 2008, they have received two complaints relating to two separate 'cases' (being an ad or campaign) of DCSF advertising. However, neither of these complaints resulted in an ASA investigation being launched.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary staff exit scheme in each year since it was established received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [242250]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1860-61W.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria his Department employs to assess the effect of the education maintenance allowance; and what the performance was against such criteria in 2007-08. [244544]

Jim Knight: The education maintenance allowance (EMA) was introduced to incentivise more 16 to 19-year-olds from low income households to participate in post-16 learning. It was subject to comprehensive evaluation during pilots from 1999 through to national roll out from 2004. We have evidence on the impact these pilots had on both participation in full-time education and attainment by age 18.

We do not know whether the impact of EMA has changed since national roll out because there is no comparison group in the United Kingdom where EMA is not available against which we could measure the 'EMA effect'. However, since EMA was rolled out there have been year on year increases in participation in full time education, and this is one of the most important initiatives aimed at increasing participation.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the effect of the operation of the education maintenance allowance on the social cohesion of school children; and if he will make a statement. [244731]

Jim Knight: Education maintenance allowance (EMA) is designed to help young people from low-income households to stay-on in education. Evaluation of the pilots showed that the impact is highest in those families with incomes below £20,000 and that there is a significant fall in take-up from families in the income ranges of just over £30,000. In designing the national programme, we used this evidence to make best use of the funds available for EMA. Experience in the pilots is that young people who are not eligible for EMA understand that, by setting an upper income threshold, we are focusing resources where they are most needed and will have the most impact.

We continue to heed the views of young people about the scheme. Previously, a learner could receive a weekly payment for attending class even if they had been disruptive, uncooperative and lacking in effort. From September 2008 we have amended the criteria for payment of bonuses and weekly payments to include behaviour, punctuality, completing coursework on time and achievement of agreed learning goals. These changes emphasise the "something for something" approach of the scheme.

Young people who were consulted were strongly in favour of this change. They think it is only fair that people are rewarded for effort and not for disruptive behaviour. Similarly feedback from learning providers shows that including an element of behaviour and effort will encourage learners to work hard and make progress.

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the number of foster parents offering places for children in care directly with local authorities and through agencies; [245244]

(2) what his estimate is of the difference between the number of children seeking foster care placements and the number of such placements which are available. [245245]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities are responsible for securing sufficient and diverse placements that are appropriate for the needs of children they look after within their authority area.

Information on the number of foster parents offering places for children in care directly with local authorities and through agencies is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of children seeking foster care placements is also not collected centrally and so a difference cannot be calculated between these children seeking placements and the number of such placements available.

However, information on the number of children looked after in foster placements can be found in table A3, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of children looked after at the 31 March for 2004 to 2008 by placement.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table A3 can be found within the excel link labelled National Tables.

A table showing the number of children looked after in foster placements by local authority can be found in table LAA2 in the excel link (1st set of additional tables).

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils achieved five A* to C grade GCSEs including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [244299]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table.

Percentage of pupils who achieved five or more grades A-C including English, mathematics, science and a foreign language*

	Percentage
2008[1]	23.5
1997[2]	14.7

[1] 2008 is based on pupils at the end of KS4.
[2] 1997 data is based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.
Note:
The 2008 data is provisional and subject to change.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils obtained five grade A* to C GCSEs excluding equivalents in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [244291]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

Percentage of pupils who achieved five or more grades A-C GCSEs excluding equivalents*

	Percentage
2008[1]	34.4
1997[2]	43.0

[1] 2008 is based on pupils at the end of KS4.
[2] 1997 data is based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.
Note:
The 2008 data is provisional and subject to change.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of GCSE candidates resident in Enfield, Southgate constituency achieved A* to C grades in each examination taken in each of the last five years. [246151]

Jim Knight: The information requested by examination could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, figures showing the percentage of resident pupils in Enfield, Southgate achieving five or more A* to C grades are produced in the following table:

Percentage of resident pupils[1] achieving five or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent*

	Enfield, Southgate parliamentary constituency	Enfield local authority district
2007/08[2]	75.2	59.9
2006/07	71.2	57.2
2005/06	67.5	54.8
2004/05	63.6	52.3
2003/04	72.4	53.0

[1] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15-years-old at the start of the academic year.
[2] Provisional.

Gifted Children: Free School Meals

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils from *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools participating in the Young, Gifted and Talented Programme are eligible to receive free school meals. [246085]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The CfBT Education Trust, which runs the Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy, does not currently collect data about the eligibility of its members for free school meals.

National Assessment Agency

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister approved the decision to establish the National Assessment Agency as a division of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority; and when that decision was taken. [245827]

Jim Knight: The former Secretary of State for Education and Skills, my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) announced to Parliament on 17 November 2003, *Official Report*, column 25WS, that the QCA was proposing to establish the National Assessment Agency.

National Assessment Agency: Pay

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been paid on average in bonuses to officials at the *(a)* National Assessment Agency and *(b)* Qualification and Curriculum Authority in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [245571]

Jim Knight: For the financial year ending in March 2008, the average NAA bonus was £2,623 and the average QCA bonus (excluding NAA) was £2,206.

Bonus payments are made after the end of the financial year to which they relate.

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the value is of the contract awarded to Edexcel to administer key stage 2 tests in 2009. [245826]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) announced Edexcel as its preferred bidder for the one-year contract to supply national curriculum test operation services for the 2009 series, on 31 December 2008. The contract, worth £25 million over the contract period, covers the supply of national curriculum test operation services for key stage 2 statutory tests and other non-statutory tests for the 2009 test cycle.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to his oral statement on the Sutherland Inquiry, whether Ken Boston and David Gee will receive full pay during the period of their suspensions. [245830]

Jim Knight: Dr. Ken Boston and David Gee have been suspended on full pay pending the outcome of an internal QCA review.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority discovered that ETS had lost the contract to administer the Graduate Management Admissions Test in the US, referred to in paragraph 2.18 of the Sutherland Inquiry report, HC 62. [245831]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information. The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the development and administration of National Curriculum tests. I have therefore asked the QCA to write to the hon. Member directly in response to this question.

Nursery Schools: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the free nursery education entitlement change from 12.5 hours to 15 hours a week to be implemented in Leeds, West constituency; and if he will make a statement. [246173]

Beverley Hughes: Leeds City council is a "pathfinder" local authority for the extension of the free early learning entitlement from 12 ½ to 15 hours per week. At present, around 4,000 free early learning places of 15 hours have been secured across Leeds and we expect 15 hours to be available to almost all children in Leeds by autumn 2009. We cannot separately identify figures for the Leeds, West constituency.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246351]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department undertakes employment history, Disclosure Scotland and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks as appropriate. If these checks identify any issues around people with criminal records then suitability for employment is considered with the Department's interest paramount and the top priority is to safeguard the children and adults whom we serve.

In addition, all individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults, are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Although the information is used as part of the recruitment process, we do not then transfer any details on criminal records to the central personnel record and as such the information requested could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many calls there have been to the Parent Know-How helpline in each month since it was established; what the cost of the helpline has been; and if he will make a statement. [245601]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 45W. No further information is available at this stage about the number of calls answered since September 2008.

Personal Social and Health Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to strengthen and improve teaching in personal, social and health education. [244900]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The importance of good quality personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education has never been greater. PSHE education has a major contribution to make to young people's personal development and well-being. Therefore, on 23 October we announced our intention to make PSHE education statutory and launched an independent review to investigate how to achieve this in an effective and practicable way. Sir Alasdair Macdonald, head teacher at Morpeth School in Tower Hamlets, has been asked to lead the review and will report to Ministers with recommendations in April 2009.

Alongside making PSHE statutory, our key delivery challenge is to develop the skills and confidence of the workforce that delivers PSHE education in schools. To address this, £2 million of funding is available each year to train teachers and professionals who deliver PSHE education in schools. We will encourage schools to use INSET to improve staff awareness on the duty to promote well-being and the importance of high quality PSHE education in particular. We are also working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools to develop a specialist route through initial teacher training.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of fixed period exclusions were given to pupils *(a)* with special educational needs and *(b)* entitled to free school meals in (i) secondary schools and (ii) primary schools in each year since 1997. [241852]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time for the school year 2003-04. The requested information on fixed period exclusions for pupils with special educational needs for years 2003-04 to 2006-07 is shown in the table.

Information on fixed period exclusions by free school meals is only available for the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 and is shown in the table. The information for the year 2005-06 is not available for primary schools.

Primary and state funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of episodes of fixed period exclusion by special educational needs[3] 2003-04 to 2006-07[4,5] England

	Maintained Primary schools		*State funded secondary schools[2]*	
	Number of exclusions	*Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]*	*Number of exclusions*	*Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]*
2003-04[4]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	5,610	13.6	20,430	7.1
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	35,690	86.4	267,600	92.9

Primary and state funded secondary schools[1,2]: number of episodes of fixed period exclusion by special educational needs[3] 2003-04 to 2006-07[4,5]: England

	Maintained Primary schools		State funded secondary schools[2]	
	Number of exclusions	Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]	Number of exclusions	Percentage of fixed period exclusions[6]
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	23,490	56.9	109,410	38.0
Pupils with no SEN	12,200	29.5	158,190	54.9
All pupils[8]	41,290	100.0	288,050	100.0
2004-05[4]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	5,730	13.1	21,980	6.7
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	37,990	86.9	307,700	93.3
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	24,860	56.9	124,980	37.9
Pupils with no SEN	13,130	30.0	182,710	55.4
All pupils[9]	43,720	100.0	329,680	100.0
2005-06[4,5]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	n/a	n/a	23,560	6.8
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	n/a	n/a	324,750	93.2
Of which:				0.0
Pupils with SEN without statements	n/a	n/a	166,640	47.8
Pupils with no SEN	n/a	n/a	158,120	45.4
All pupils[10]	n/a	n/a	348,310	100.0
2006-07[9]				
Pupils with statements of SEN	6,240	13.6	23,660	6.5
Pupils without statements of SEN[7]	39,470	86.3	339,530	93.5
Of which:				
Pupils with SEN without statements	30,690	67.1	179,160	49.3
Pupils with no SEN	8,780	19.2	160,370	44.1
All pupils[11]	45,730	100.0	363,270	100.0

n/a = Not available
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and Academies.
[3] The number of episodes of fixed period exclusion, a pupil may receive more than one fixed period exclusions during the year.
[4] In 2003-04, information on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time via the Termly Exclusions Survey.
[5] For the 2005-06 school year, only information on fixed period exclusions from secondary schools was available.
[6] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) in January each year.
[7] Includes pupils with no identified SEN and those pupils with SEN without statements.
[8] Totals include 12 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.
[9] Totals include 2 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.
[10] Totals include 48 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.
[11] Totals include 140 fixed period exclusions for which SEN status was not known. These have been included in the total column only.
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]: number of episodes of fixed period exclusions by free school meal eligibility 2005-06 and 2006-07: England

	Maintained primary schools		State funded secondary schools[2]	
	Number of exclusions	Proportion of fixed period exclusions[4]	Number of exclusions	Proportion of fixed period exclusions[4]
2005-06[5]				
Fixed period exclusions				
Pupils eligible for free schools meals	[7]—	[7]—	105,530	30.3
Other pupils	[7]—	[7]—	238,280	68.4
All pupils[6]	[7]—	[7]—	348,410	—
2006-07	[8]—	[8]—		
Fixed period exclusions				
Pupils eligible for free schools meals	21,020	46.0	109,940	30.3
Other pupils	24,250	53.0	251,450	69.2
All pupils[6]	45,730	[9]—	361,270	[9]—

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes both CTCs and Academies. Information is as reported by schools.
[3] Includes both maintained special schools and non-maintained special schools.
[4] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of all fixed period exclusions.
[5] For 2005-06 a change in the underlying method of data collection means that data on fixed period exclusions from primary and special schools is not available.
[6] Totals include 4,600 fixed period exclusions with unclassified free school meal eligibility.
[7] Not available.
[8] Totals include 2,529 fixed period exclusions with unclassified free school meal eligibility.
[9] Not applicable.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Catering

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards re-installing kitchens in schools from which they had been removed. [244261]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect this information.

However, over the next three years, we are providing a record £21.9 billion of capital support for investment in school buildings. Much of this funding is devolved to local authorities and schools for their local priorities, which can include installing or improving school kitchens and dining areas. In addition to this funding, from April 2008 until March 2011, we are making available £150 million of targeted capital grant specifically to help improve kitchens and dining areas.

Schools: Reorganisation

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will review the appropriateness of arrangements for the amalgamation of local authority education and children's social services; and if he will make a statement. [244337]

Beverley Hughes: There is wide agreement that the outcomes we want for every child can only be achieved and sustained when agencies work together. The role of the Director of Children's Services brings together local

authority services for children and young people to ensure joint working, and to champion the interests of children and young people in the local area. There is no intention to review these arrangements.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Making Good Progress pilot scheme; [245573]

(2) what assessment he has made of the performance levels in single level tests undertaken under the Making Good Progress pilot scheme; and if he will make a statement. [245572]

Jim Knight: Making Good Progress is a two year pilot, due to run until July 2009. It is being independently evaluated by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The interim report on the first year of the pilot has been published and a copy has been sent to the Chairman of the Select Committee for Children, Schools and Families. The report includes the summary of the December 2007 and June 2008 single level test results.

A final evaluation report which will make an assessment about the effectiveness of the pilot and its elements over the full two years is due to be published in the autumn of 2009.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools have joined the National Challenge as a consequence of their 2008 GCSE results. [246082]

Jim Knight: Final validated GCSE results for 2008 are not yet available. However, since the National Challenge was launched we have been working with local authorities to identify bespoke packages of support for schools with fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils gaining 5 A*-C including English and mathematics, and for those deemed at risk of falling below this threshold.

Individual local authorities will shortly publish their plans for all schools which are being supported by National Challenge so that local parents can see details of the proposed support.

Secondary Education: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the most recent Ofsted inspection grades were for each secondary school that serves the principal seaside towns of England; and what the national average was of such grades. [244859]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Sixth Form Colleges: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what tasks he has asked each Government Office to undertake relating to the proposed changes to the funding and management of sixth form colleges; and if he will make a statement. [244171]

Jim Knight: Government offices (GOs) will have no direct role in funding and management of sixth form colleges in the new system. Local authorities will be accountable for the performance management of sixth form colleges in the new system where there will be a legally distinct Sixth Form College sector.

Responsibility for the planning, commissioning and funding for education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds will transfer to local authorities; supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. GOs will contribute to discussion of regional priorities and support local authorities in undertaking their new responsibilities. They are, and will continue to be, a conduit for information to flow from sub-regional groupings (SRGs) to the Department. During the transition to the new system GOs are playing an important role in supporting local authorities and working with other regional bodies to prepare. In particular they have been supporting the development of SRGs in preparation for the transfer of 16 to 19 funding from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities. The Department will be allocating funding via Government offices to SRGs to help build their capacity through this process.

Social Services: Children

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the names and positions are of the chairs of each Local Safeguarding Board; and which of those chairs hold the positions concurrently with a position of director of children's services or any other local authority appointment relating to child protection. [241997]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 December 2008]:* The list of the Chairs of Local Safeguarding Children Boards, which includes information about Chairs who hold the positions concurrently with a position of Director of Children's Services or any other local authority appointment relating to child protection, is available on the Every Child Matters website. The website address to access the list is:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/IG000078/.

Social Services: Temporary Employment

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of those working in social services departments in each local authority area in England were agency staff in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [244689]

Beverley Hughes: The number and percentage of agency staff working in social services departments by local authority is not held centrally. The Local Government Association estimated that the average percentage of agency staff working in posts for children and young people within local authority social services departments in England in 2006 was 13 per cent. This was estimated to equate to around 5,488 agency staff covering a range of roles including field social workers, residential care workers and admin staff. Further information is available from the Local Government Analysis and Research website:

http://www.lgar.local.gov.uk/lgv/core/page.do?pageId=12636

Social Workers: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what date he expects the confidential whistleblowers' hotline for social workers announced by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to be operational; and if he will make a statement. [244690]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 December 2008:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted is currently investigating options for establishing the whistleblowers' hotline. We would expect it to be operational from April 2009.

At present, it is possible for anyone with concerns to raise these anonymously by contacting Ofsted's National Business Unit, the details of which can be found on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for School and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools have received money for introducing new diploma courses; and if he will make a statement. [245597]

Jim Knight: We do not hold information at school level on funding that schools receive for diploma delivery. In 2008-09, funding was available to schools delivering diplomas from the following sources:

The diploma grant to support the additional costs of delivery for 14 to 16-year-olds (a total of £17.4 million distributed through 100 local authorities to consortia delivering diplomas for 8,568 learners);

Funding for 16 to 18-year-olds in school sixth forms distributed by LSC (a total of 3,504 16 to 18-year-olds are being funded in schools and colleges at the relevant funding rate for the line and level of learning they are studying); and

A total of £56.12 million to develop the work force in schools and colleges.

In addition to these, we have made available funding to support consortia approved through the Gateway process to prepare for delivery. We have provided £30,000 per consortium per line of learning for those starting to deliver diploma courses in September 2008. For the seven consortia due to deliver all 10 diploma lines from September 2009, we have this year supported them with an extra £1 million each to build the necessary capacity.

We have also given the 20 most rural local authorities an extra £1 million each to support innovation in implementation of 14-19 reforms in rural areas. For the 40 most rural local authorities, there is funding of a total of £3 million to support the post of transport and access co-ordinator. There is also £608 million in targeted capital funding available across the 76 local authorities not involved in waves 1-6 of Building Schools for the Future (£8 million for each local authority) to spend on either 14-19 or special educational needs.

Schools, colleges, local authorities and others can access existing funding streams to help 14-19 reforms, which include Building Schools for the Future, the Further Education Modernisation Fund and the 16-19 Capital Fund.

Sports: Curriculum

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what place there will be for co-operative sport in the new primary curriculum. [246538]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The detail of the revised primary curriculum will be set out in the final report of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum in spring 2009. The Independent Review is working with the Association for Physical Education, the Youth Sports Trust and other relevant organisations to develop physical education content, including co-operative sport, in the new primary curriculum.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what part physical education lessons will play in the new primary curriculum. [246539]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Physical education will continue to play an important part in the primary curriculum. The detail of the knowledge, skills and understanding all primary aged pupils should be taught in physical education and other subject areas will be set out in the final report of the Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum next spring.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment has been made of the impact of the provision of the new primary curriculum relating to physical education on childhood obesity rates. [246540]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No assessment has been made. The Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum has only published an interim report. The interim report makes explicit the link between physical development and health. Work is currently taking place on the detailed content of the programmes of learning to be published with the final report next spring.

Trust Schools

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools in *(a)* Herefordshire, *(b)* Shropshire, *(c)* Worcestershire and *(d)* the West Midlands have applied for trust status; [246758]

(2) who the main external partners supporting Herefordshire Trust Schools will be; and if he will make a statement. [246759]

Jim Knight: Schools do not have to apply to the Department for Children, Schools and Families to become a trust or foundation school. Proposals are decided by the governing body (or the Schools Adjudicator where proposals to acquire a trust have been referred by the local authority). There is no role for Ministers in the decision-making process.

To date, seven schools in *(a)* Herefordshire, no schools in *(b)* Shropshire, seven schools in *(c)* Worcestershire, and 67 schools in *(d)* West Midlands (including Herefordshire and Worcestershire) have either applied or established a trust under the provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. All 67 schools are on the Trust and Foundation Schools Support programme where they have access to advice and guidance on the processes associated with acquiring a Trust.

Schools in Herefordshire are consulting about the acquisition of a trust, including who their partners will be. Trust partners are available from individual governing bodies through the publication of statutory proposals.

JUSTICE

Community Sentences: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals have been sentenced to intensive unpaid work in the 10 knife action programme areas for knife-related crimes. [246747]

Mr. Hanson: Finalised sentencing data for the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) areas in 2008 will not be available until "Sentencing Statistics 2008" is published in November 2009.

From 5 January probation areas have been instructed to make intensive unpaid work of any sentence length, to the maximum of 300 hours, available for offenders convicted of knife crime offences. Under this revised definition of intensive unpaid work, offenders will be required to complete unpaid work at a minimum of 18 hours per week and may also be required to comply with other community order requirements designed to address offending behaviour.

Courts: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will develop a strategy for dealing with civil cases in the county courts in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [244676]

Bridget Prentice: There are five county courts in Essex, located at Basildon, Harlow, Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend. Basildon and Harlow are relatively small and only sit District Judges. Chelmsford is the Care Centre for the whole of Essex and Colchester and Southend are both Trial Centres. We are currently reviewing the listing arrangements, mainly for the Circuit Judges, with a view to ensuring that the courthouses and judiciary are being utilised in the most effective and efficient way to deliver the best service we can to the court users of Essex.

During 2009, the plan is for civil work at Southend to change from being listed for a single Circuit Judge every day and towards listing for two Circuit Judges sitting together for up to two weeks each month still at Southend. This will facilitate a back to back listing system for multi track cases increasing throughput, disposal rates and, ultimately, reducing waiting times.

Chelmsford county court moved into a new building in December 2007 which provides modern improved facilities and additional courtrooms and hearing rooms. Again, during 2009, the plan is to create a similar back to back listing system for both Chelmsford and Colchester multi-track work at Chelmsford with Ipswich civil cases being listed from Ipswich. Some civil work and private family law work will remain at Colchester. All Essex county court public law family work will continue to be listed at Chelmsford where the Family Proceedings Court work for Chelmsford is also heard now. This will enable Circuit Judges to sit back to back on public law and civil work.

In summary, therefore, the objectives in this review of Essex civil listing are:

- To reduce waiting times and improve our customer service to all Essex court users.
- Make best use of court accommodation and judicial resources.
- List more effectively and with greater certainty.

Courts: Fines

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines imposed by courts in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08 remain unpaid. [244239]

Bridget Prentice: Although my Department identifies the total value of fines owed and the total value of fines collected within each police force area, current management information systems do not allow for these to be separated into those imposed and paid within a single year. It is therefore not possible to say how many fines imposed in a year remain unpaid.

However the following table contains amounts that have been owed and collected in the last five years.

	New net amount owed (£)	*Amount paid (£)*	*Payment rate (percentage)*
2003-04	288,923,893	212,785,348	74
2004-05	276,717,475	221,505,558	80
2005-06	281,231,031	233,332,326	83
2006-07	266,533,663	244,555,540	92
2007-08	270,341,364	256,117,663	95

This table indicates that there has been year on year increases in the payment rate for financial penalties.

Crime: Compensation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what percentage of claims the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority *(a)* received and *(b)* processed where a civil claim was also outstanding in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008; [245039]

(2) how many and what percentage of Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority claims where a civil claim was also outstanding were completed before the civil claim was completed in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [245040]

Maria Eagle: These statistics are not kept. To obtain such information would require a manual search of each application received and processed for the last two years—to do so would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority practice of continuing to process applications when other claims are being pursued will be discontinued. [245041]

Maria Eagle: The criminal injuries compensation scheme 2008, introduced on 3 November 2008, states that

"A claims officer may require an applicant to provide details of any steps taken or planned to obtain damages or compensation in respect of the same injury and may decline to process an application further until those details have been provided or until the applicant's attempts to obtain such damages or compensation have been exhausted."

There are no plans to change this position.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the tariffs applied by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority were last increased. [245043]

Maria Eagle: The criminal injuries compensation scheme 2008, introduced on 3 November 2008, includes an amended Tariff of Injuries, which re-categorises some of the injuries contained in the previous tariff and increases the tariff level of award for some categories of injury.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what consideration was given to increasing the tariffs applied by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in the recent review of the scheme; [245044]

(2) what consideration was given to increasing the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority's 1996 cap of £500,000 in line with inflation or otherwise in the recent review of the scheme. [245045]

Maria Eagle: Following consultation, launched in December 2005 by the green paper "Rebuilding Lives: supporting victims of crime", working groups were set up to discuss the appropriate levels for the tariff.

The tariff scheme was introduced to stop the costs of the scheme rising at a rate that was no longer sustainable for a scheme funded by the taxpayer. A balance therefore has to be struck between competing demands for finite public resources, and what the taxpayer can afford against what is a reasonable amount of compensation for victims of violent crime.

The criminal injuries compensation scheme of Great Britain is probably the most generous scheme in the world for compensating innocent victims of violent crime. With regards to the maximum cap of £500,000, nearly all state compensation schemes in the European Union have a maximum cap, and it is usually far lower than £500,000.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority cases the cap has been applied in each year since its introduction. [245046]

Maria Eagle: The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority does not keep statistics on the number of cases where the cap has been applied.

The number of cases in which the maximum award was paid are as follows:

	Number
1996-97	0
1997-98	0
1998-99	1
1999-2000	0
2000-01	2
2001-02	1
2002-03	4
2003-04	5
2004-05	10
2005-06	14
2006-07	28
2007-08	41
2008-09	[1]48

[1] As at 17 December 2008

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what factors the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority considered when setting the appropriate level of compensation for the loss of one kidney at £11,000. [245058]

Maria Eagle: The tariff is not set by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority but by Ministers with the approval of Parliament.

Following consultation, launched by the Government in December 2005 by the green paper 'Rebuilding Lives: supporting victims of crime', working groups were set up to discuss the appropriate levels for the tariff.

Representatives on the working groups included judges from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel, lawyers from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, Home Office and Ministry of Justice and policy advisors from the sponsor Department and Scottish Executive.

Advice was sought from panel members with medical knowledge and consultant status. They advised that the human body can function as normal with one kidney. Therefore £11,000 was considered to be a more appropriate level of award for this injury.

This decision was approved by Parliament.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245390]

Mr. Wills: All the IT environments in the Department and its agencies have been fully accredited to Government security standards; a number of these are currently undergoing their periodic re-accreditation. All new applications must be accredited before they are accepted into service.

Enforcement Restriction Orders

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many enforcement restriction orders have been granted by the county courts in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [245428]

Bridget Prentice: The county courts have not granted any enforcement restriction orders (EROs) because the provisions have not yet been introduced. Our current intention is to implement the ERO in 2010.

The ERO scheme was enacted in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. It was developed following extensive consultation with the advice and credit sectors. It is intended specifically to

support only those debtors who encounter unforeseen short-term difficulties from which they are likely to recover in a relatively short period. Other options, such as the reformed Administration Order (AO), which is contained in Chapter 1 of Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, exist for those with more long-term problems.

Earlier this year Her Majesty's Court Service consulted on certain aspects of the Administration and Enforcement Restriction Order schemes, including the types of debts that should be able to be protected. The response to the consultation paper: Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: setting the parameters, will be published shortly.

HMP Whitemoor: Discrimination

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 873-4W, on prisons: complaints, how many complaints by prison officers have been made against fellow officers at HMP Whitemoor on the grounds of *(a)* sexual discrimination, *(b)* sexual harassment, *(c)* homophobic behaviour and *(d)* racial discrimination in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of these complaints were upheld; what proportion of those making such complaints received compensation payments; and how much each received. [246172]

Mr. Malik: Information held locally by the establishment is only readily available for the period since 2001-02. The table lists those cases involving complaints made by prison officers about fellow officers.

Year	*Number of cases*	*Type of complaint*	*Complaint upheld/ dismissed*
2001-02	2	Racial discrimination	Upheld
2002-03	1	Sexual harassment	Upheld
2003-04	1	Sexual discrimination	Dismissed
	1	Sexual discrimination	Partially upheld
2004-05	1	Racial discrimination	Upheld
2005-06	None	—	—
2006-07	3	Racial discrimination	Upheld
	1	Racial discrimination[1]	Upheld
	2	Racial discrimination	Dismissed
2007-08	1	Homophobic behaviour	Upheld
	1	Sexual harassment	Partially upheld
2008-09[2]	None		

[1] This case also involved complaints made against staff from other areas of the Prison Service.
[2] To end 12/2008

Payments were made in two of these cases which were both the subjects of confidentiality agreements. To identify amounts paid, or which cases were involved would breach that agreement, and may enable individuals to be identified.

Human Trafficking: Refuges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much funding the Home Office has provided for the Poppy Project in each of the last five years. [243310]

Maria Eagle: The Poppy project is jointly funded by the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office. The following table provides a breakdown of grant funding in the last five years.

Financial year	*HO*	*MOJ*	*Funding*
			£
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2006	[1]2,000,000		£2,000,000
2006-07	[1]900,000		1,200,000
	[2]300,000		
2007-08	[1]1,000,000		1,300,000
	[2]300,000		
2008-09	[2]400,000	[1]900,000	1,300,000

[1] OCJR
[2] CRCSG

Intellectual Property

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the UK will implement Article 4 of the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive (2004/48/EC); and what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Council that it should be implemented. [245150]

Bridget Prentice: Article 4 of the Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Directive (2004/48/EC) sets out who has an entitlement to make an application for the provisions available under the Directive. Subsections *(a)* and *(b)*, which recognise the entitlement of holders of intellectual property rights and those authorised to use those rights, have already been implemented. Subsections *(c)* and *(d)* require member states to introduce representative actions if they are recognised by the applicable law. UK domestic law does not permit representative actions and so these articles do not apply in cases where the applicable law is that of the UK.

The Civil Justice Council published their final recommendations to improve access to justice for consumers and small businesses in collective claims on 12 December, although it does not make a specific recommendation on article 4. This report is being considered across Government and we will publish a formal response as soon as possible.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the National Offender Management Service staff's training record is based on a prison service template. [246929]

Mr. Malik: There is no prison service template for recording staff training. It is for individual prison establishments and headquarters groups to maintain training records in the most effective way for them.

National Offender Management Service: Religion

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will issue guidance to the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to prevent religious groups and individuals working or volunteering in NOMS from promoting their religions. [244674]

Mr. Malik: Religious groups and individuals working or volunteering in NOMS are required to comply with NOMS Diversity policies. Chaplains and Chaplaincy volunteers, in providing religious teaching and support, are not permitted to proselytize in their work with offenders.

Staff employed by NOMS must not discriminate unlawfully against individuals or groups of individuals because of their religion. They must not harass others through behaviour, language and other unnecessary and uninvited actions. Nor must staff have private interests that interfere or could interfere with the proper discharge of their duties.

Prisoners: Women

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which *(a)* publicly funded and *(b)* privately run women's prisons provide specialist help for inmates who have self-harmed; and in each case whether such help in each prison is made available on a permanent or temporary basis; [245671]

(2) how many inmates there are in each *(a)* publicly funded and *(b)* privately run women's prison; and how many inmates in each had self-harmed in the last 12 months. [245672]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS is committed to reducing the number of self harm incidents in prison custody. Whilst most self harm is not directly life threatening it can be extremely distressing for those who have to deal with it.

A prisoner focussed care planning system, (ACCT), for those identified at risk has helped prisons manage self harm. The Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork, (ACCT), aims to improve the quality of care by introducing flexible care-planning that is individually based, supported by improved staff training in assessing and understanding at risk prisoners.

The following programmes have been specifically developed to meet the needs of women:

CARE Programme, (Choices, Actions, Relationships and Emotions) has been developed specifically for women convicted of violent and/or substance-related offences. The programme addresses a number of personal and circumstantial difficulties known to be linked to self harm, substance misuse, mental ill-health, violence and reoffending. The programme was piloted in two public sector prisons and an accreditation submission will be made to Correctional Services Accreditation Panel, (CSAP), in summer 2009.

The Carousel programme was designed to meet the needs of women displaying repetitive self harming behaviour, many of whom are also disruptive or violent. It consists of a rolling group support programme combined with individual counselling, physical exercise and relaxation, educational activity, art therapy and music lessons. The development of alternative coping skills is a key element running through the programme. The programme, funded by the primary care trust, is run at Eastwood Park, a public sector prison.

Dialectical behaviour therapy (DBT) is a programme developed specifically for women with borderline personality disorder and who have shown a high risk of self harm or are high risk offenders. An adapted version of DBT is being run at Holloway as part of the Holloway Skills Training (HoST) programme, and at Low Newton as part of the Dangerous Severe Personality Disorder (DSPD) Primrose programme. Both prisons are public sector establishments.

A new pilot has been launched at HMP Bronzefield, to help to tackle self-harm among its population. The Self-Harm Reduction programme, (SHaRP), aims to aid the women in developing coping strategies, problem-solving techniques, communication and goal-setting skills to help to control their self-harming behaviour. The programme takes place over 14 group sessions during a period of three weeks; and there are also opportunities for one-to-one sessions twice weekly by appointment. Once the initial three-week programme is completed, there is a six week gap before the women are assessed again by SHaRP staff. The SHaRP programme started in April 2008 for an initial 12 month period, with a view to extend. However it will be fully evaluated at the end of this initial period. In addition the three day SAFE programme, (whose goal is to reduce self harm), has also been running at Bronzefield since 2004 and is currently being evaluated by a forensic psychologist from NOMS.

The following table details the current prisons which hold females, by funding sector; their populations [a] and their recorded numbers of self-harming individuals, for the period in question (December 2007 to November 2008).

Prison	*Sector*	*Function*	*Population*[1]	*Individual self-harmers*
Askham Grange	Public	Female Open	104	0
Bronzefield	Private	Female Local	457	424
Downview	Public	Female closed	353	6
Drake Hall	Public	Female Semi Open	262	34
East Sutton Park	Public	Female Open	89	0
Eastwood Park	Public	Female closed	316	426
Foston Hall	Public	Female closed	259	332
Holloway	Public	Female Local	490	348
Low Newton	Public	Female Local	297	348
Morton Hall	Public	Female Semi Open	392	51
New Hall	Public	Female Local	427	506
Peterborough Female[2]	Private	Mixed Local	n/r	310
Send	Public	Female closed	275	114
Styal	Public	Mixed Local	440	378

[1] These figures are mid-year snapshot averages.
[2] Although a split-site mixed Local, HMP Peterborough submits a single population figure for both male and female sites (994 in June).

Terrorism: Compensation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many final Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority awards have been paid to those injured in the 7 July 2005 bombings. [245047]

Maria Eagle: As at 19 December 2008, 533 final payments had been made to victims injured in the bombings.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority applications by those injured in the 7 July 2005 bombings *(a)* remain unfinalised, *(b)* have resulted in interim payments and *(c)* have not resulted in payments; and how many of those applicants received a payment in excess of £500,000. [245048]

Maria Eagle: As at 19 December 2008:

(a) Of the 645 applications received, 47 applications remain unfinalised, although final offers have been made in 14 of those cases.

(b) Of the 33 applications yet to receive a final offer, 20 have received an interim payment.

(c) 13 applicants have not yet received any interim payment either because questions remain about eligibility or contact has been lost with the applicant.

No awards in excess of £500,000 have been paid as this is the maximum award payable under the scheme.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he plans to take to ensure that information held by the security services, police counter-terrorism specialists and the Counter Terrorism Network is shared more effectively with local councils and Basic Command Unit commanders in response to the recommendation at paragraph 20 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246203]

(2) what steps he plans to take to ensure that police services provide targeted assistance to people who are at risk of falling under the influence of extremism, as referred to in paragraph 36 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246233]

(3) what plans *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's Research Information and Communications Unit have to respond to the recommendation on page 13 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise on using the experience of small partnerships; [246234]

(4) what steps he plans to take to ensure that partnerships *(a)* regularly reassess their readiness to cope with a counter-terrorism operation in their area and *(b)* ensure that learning from experiences elsewhere is incorporated in their consequence management arrangement, as recommended on page 28 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246202]

(5) what response he plans to make to the Audit Commission's recommendation that the Security Service, the Association of Chief Police Officers and regional government offices develop an agreed structure for information sharing at an appropriate level between the police, councils and other partners, referred to on page 22 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246201]

(6) what response he plans to make to the Audit Commission's recommendation that reliable information flows between councils and police forces serving similar communities across the UK be developed, as contained in paragraph 75 of its November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246199]

(7) what steps he plans to take to ensure that all neighbourhood policing teams are provided with sufficient *(a)* briefing and *(b)* awareness-raising training on extremism and terrorism, as mentioned in paragraph 118 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246198]

(8) whether he plans to increase engagement between neighbourhood policing teams, council officers delivering frontline services and local communities, as suggested in paragraph 117 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246197]

(9) what steps he plans to take to establish the effective local links between partnerships and prisons and probation services referred to in paragraph 112 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; [246176]

(10) what steps he plans to take to improve the engagement between the Counter Terrorism Network and borough command units referred to in paragraph 111 of the Audit Commission report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise. [246175]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

A number of reviews took place over the summer which sought to draw out learning and emerging practice on the delivery of activity to prevent violent extremism, including the joint Audit Commission and HMIC Learning and Development Exercise (LDE). Though each review had a different focus, together they provide a useful package of learning material upon which local partners can draw and which will inform the Government's approach to Prevent.

There are a number of common themes which run through all these reviews. Some of these require action from national Government, some from local partners and many from both. We have ensured wide distribution of the LDE report to enable local partners to benefit directly from the important learning it contains in taking forward their local Prevent response. We published "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" on 10 December, which sets out the key strands of learning from the reviews and work already underway to address these key themes. We will continue to develop our response to the reviews throughout the year.

I will place a copy of "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" in the Library of the House.

HEALTH

Anaemia

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidelines his Department provides to GPs on the treatment of pernicious anaemia; [244915]

(2) what quantitative data his Department has compiled on the incidence of pernicious anaemia by *(a)* geographical location, *(b)* age and *(c)* presence of existing auto-immune disease; [244916]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to increase *(a)* prevention and *(b)* diagnosis of pernicious anaemia in infants and juveniles; [244919]

(4) what assessment he has made of awareness among medical professionals of the prevalence of pernicious anaemia; [244920]

(5) if he will give consideration to the replacement of treatments of hydroxocobalamin with cyanacobalamin; and what research his Department has commissioned into such treatment; [245729]

(6) if he will make routine pernicious anaemia testing available to vulnerable groups. [245834]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued any recent guidance to general practitioners (GPs) on treatment of pernicious anaemia.

The Department does not itself compile any quantitative data on incidence of pernicious anaemia, as this condition is generally treated by GPs at primary care level. The link between low vitamin B12 status and subsequent development of adverse health outcomes and the incidence and prevalence of such outcomes is unclear. Some data are available from the General Practice Research Database (GPRD) which contains longitudinal medical records from approx 420 primary care practices throughout the United Kingdom (4 per cent. of total number in UK). The following table shows the number of patients (aged 65 years and over) in the GPRD with at least one record of pernicious anaemia (2005).

Number of patients (aged 65 years and over) in the GPRD (2005) with at least one record of pernicious anaemia and at least one prescription for vitamin B12

Country	*Number of patients*	*As percentage of total number of patients aged 65 years and over registered in the GPRD for 2005**
England	406	0.11
Wales	23	0.10
Scotland	44	0.27
Northern Ireland	15	0.12
Total	488	0.12

Source:
General Practice Research Database

There are no steps currently being taken by the Department to increase prevention and diagnosis of pernicious anaemia in infants and juveniles. This is an extremely rare condition in children.

Assessments of medical professionals and their awareness of pernicious anaemia are not matters for the Department. It would be for the relevant specialist professional bodies such as the Royal College of Pathologists to provide guidance and professional development on matters relating to haematology.

Hydroxocobalamin is recommended in preference to cyanacobalamin by the Joint Formulary Committee of the British National Formulary, because it is retained in the body longer than cyanocobalamin and maintenance is thus required less frequently, at intervals of up to three months. The Department has not commissioned research into these treatments.

The UK National Screening Committee has not recommended in favour of routine screening for pernicious anaemia. However, the Committee does recommend that all pregnant women should be offered a test for anaemia (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Routine Antenatal Care Guideline).

Aseptic Dispensing

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has provided to hospital trusts on aseptic dispensing. [245613]

Phil Hope: Guidance was last issued by the Department in August 1997 in "Aseptic Dispensing in National Health Service Hospitals (EL(97)52)." A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library. In addition, the National Health Service Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance Committee updated its publication "Quality Assurance of Aseptic Preparation Services" in October 2005.

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of neonatal nursing staff in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England; whether he plans to provide funding to increase those numbers; and if he will make a statement [244221]

Ann Keen: It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local authorities, strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, and to commission services accordingly. On 25 January 2008, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that PCT baselines for 2008-09—2010-11 included £330 million of extra funding to support improvements in maternity services.

In response to the National Audit Report 2007 Caring for Vulnerable Babies the Department set up a Neonatal Taskforce which is working to develop targeted action plans to assist local workforce decision making incorporating skill mix, staffing levels, retention, recruitment and commissioning of education and training.

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is using agency nurses to ensure adequate services continue to be provided. The Trust has put in place a 'grow your own' policy sponsoring nurses to go onto appropriate neonatal nurse courses and to ensure that their reliance on agency nurses is reduced in future years.

British National Formulary

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 302W, on the British National Formulary, whether the distribution to hospital doctors has taken place. [245799]

Dawn Primarolo: Yes. The Department of Health's distribution of the September 2008 edition of the British National Formulary (British National Formulary 56) has been completed. Guidance for National Health Service organisations that need to order additional copies of the British National Formularies for their prescribers, is available on the Department of Health's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081420

A copy of the guidance has also been placed in the Library.

Cancer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's presentation to the Cancer Policy Forum by Teresa Moss of June 2008. [245622]

Ann Keen: Teresa Moss heads the National Cancer Action Team, which is a national health service body. I have drawn the hon. Member's question to her attention, and she will write to him direct.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints by patients relating to the refusal by a primary care trust to fund *(a)* a cancer and *(b)* a non-cancer treatment have been made (i) in the NHS, (ii) to the Healthcare Commission and (iii) to the Health Service Ombudsman in each year since 1997-98. [245621]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected at this level of detail by the Department of Health, the Healthcare Commission or the Health Service Ombudsman.

Clinical Physiologists: Career Structure

Mr. Syms: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the impact of the current Modernising Scientific Careers proposals on the career pathways of clinical physiologists. [246215]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Proposals to transform the future training and career pathways of the health care science workforce as set out in "The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce Modernising Scientific Careers: The Next Steps", a copy of which has been placed in the Library are currently out for public consultation which is due to end on 6 March 2009. A response will be published in due course.

Clostridium

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of disinfectant wipes using quarternary ammonium-based formulas against Clostridium difficile. [246318]

Ann Keen: The Department has not made any specific assessments regarding the effectiveness of disinfectant wipes using quaternary ammonium-based formulas against Clostridium difficile. However these compounds are not recognised sporicides.

There are potentially a number of products for sale to the national health service that do not contain chlorine and claim to be sporicidal. The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency has therefore commissioned the research into commercial formulations that claim to be sporicidal and it is expected to be completed by the end of autumn 2009.

Dementia: Respite Care

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many respite care beds there are for people with dementia in each primary care trust area in England; [244528]

(2) how many people with dementia were waiting for respite care in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* local authority area on 1 April 2008; and how many of these had been waiting (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and nine months and (iv) between nine and 12 months. [244529]

Phil Hope: Services for people requiring respite care are not condition-specific, and so the information requested is not available.

On 8 December 2008, we announced primary care trust (PCT) allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 which included £150 million so that all PCTs can increase the support they offer to all carers.

Dental Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps he has taken to increase access to NHS dentistry; and if he will make a statement. [246168]

Ann Keen: The importance of developing dental services is reiterated in "The NHS in England: The operating framework for 2008-09" published on 9 December 2008, which places a priority on primary care trusts to develop dental services in order to provide access to anyone who seeks help in accessing services.

This document has already been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_091445

This is being supported by extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for the current year 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift for 2009-10 announced in the Operating Framework, which will take the total central allocation to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

However, there are still areas of the country in which people are unable to access an national health service dentist and we know that we need to do more to ensure that NHS dentistry is available for all who wish to access it. This is why we have appointed an independent review team chaired by Professor Jimmy Steele to help us understand what steps we can take to ensure that every person who wants to access an NHS dentist can do so.

Dental Services: Public Consultation

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of NHS dental patients *(a)* on the Isle of Wight and *(b)* in each primary care trust area in Hampshire were on their local dentists' panel in each year since 1998. [246100]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of patients registered with a national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Annex B contains information on the proportion of the population registered with an NHS dentist. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) where appropriate.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09" report. Table D4 contains information on the numbers of patients seen as a percentage of the population. Information is provided by PCT and SHA.

This report, published on 27 November 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

The importance of developing dental services to this Government are reiterated in the 2009-10 Operating Framework published on 9 December 2008, which places a priority on PCTs to develop dental services in order to provide access to anyone who seeks help in accessing services. This is being supported by extra resources—an 11 per cent. uplift in our dental funding allocations for the current year 2008-09, and a further 8.5 per cent. uplift for 2009-10 announced in the Operating Framework, which will take the total central allocation to £2,257 million (net of patient charge income).

Euthanasia

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received since July 2008 from *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses and *(c)* other health care professionals in (i) support of and (ii) opposition to (A) assisted suicide and (B) voluntary euthanasia; and if he will make a statement. [242687]

Phil Hope: The Department has received 41 letters and e-mails about assisted suicide and voluntary euthanasia expressing a range of views and opinions. Correspondents do not necessarily include details of their profession.

Health Services: Freedom of Information

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address of each regional public health observatory is; and whether these bodies are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [245969]

Dawn Primarolo: Public health observatories (PHOs) are hosted by a variety of organisations including strategic health authorities (SHAs), primary care trusts (PCTs) and universities. As such, PHOs are obliged to comply with the freedom of information (FOI) arrangements within those organisations.

The names and addresses of each of the nine public health observatory in England are given as follows:

Yorkshire and Humber PHO
Alcuin Research and Resource Centre
University of York
Heslington
York YO10 5DD
Tel: 01904 328228

London PHO
4th Floor
Southside
105 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QT
Tel: 0207 932 3960

East Midlands PHO
Mill 3
Pleasely Vale Business Park
Outgang Lane
Mansfield NG1 8RL
Tel: 01623 812069

Eastern Region PHO
Institute of Public Health
University Forvie Site
Robinson Way
Cambridge CB2 0SR
Tel: 01223 330348

North East PHO
Wolfson Research Institute
University of Durham
Queens Campus
University Boulevard
Stockton on Tees TS17 6BH
Tel: 0191 3340400

North West PHO
Centre for Public Health
Liverpool John Moores University
North Street
Liverpool L3 2AY
Tel: 0151 231 4506

South East PHO
4150 Chancellor Court
Oxford Business Park South
Oxford OX4 2GX
Tel: 01654 334710

South West PHO
Grosvenor House
149 Whiteladies Road
Bristol BS8 2RA
Tel: 0117 970 6474

West Midlands PHO
Birmingham Research Park
Vincent Drive
Birmingham B15 2SQ
Tel: 0121 415 8552

Health Services: Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the eligibility requirements are for victims of human trafficking to be granted access to safe accommodation funded by the Government. [241543]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

To qualify for safe accommodation under the Government-funded Poppy project individuals must be over 18 years old, trafficked into the United Kingdom and sexual exploited in England and Wales. Priority for accommodation is given to individuals that have experienced exploitation in the immediate three months prior to referral. This year we also piloted support provisions for victims of trafficking for forced labour and domestic servitude.

We ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings on 17 December 2008. This will require us to have minimum levels of support for all identified victims of human trafficking by spring 2009. We are currently tendering for a national support model for victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, as they share similar high-level support needs. We are also working with the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to develop support services for victims trafficked into forced labour.

Health Visitors

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors *(a)* were recruited, *(b)* retired from work and *(c)* finished work for a reason other than retirement in the last year for which information is available. [244322]

Ann Keen: Accurate figures for the number of health visitors who were recruited, retired from work and finished work for a reason other than retirement are not collected centrally.

Heart Disease

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the stage at which chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder is diagnosed in the UK; and what information it holds on the stage of diagnosis in other EU countries for benchmarking purposes. [245770]

Ann Keen: According to the Quality and Outcome Framework there are around 800,000 people who have been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the United Kingdom. An independent study, based on the data from the Health Survey for England 2001, identified that spirometrically defined COPD is present in 13 per cent. of the population over 35 years in the U.K., but 80 per cent. of cases are undiagnosed. Even in moderate to severe disease less than half had a prior diagnosis[1].

Data are not available on the disease severity, or on stage of diagnosis in other European countries.

[1] Shahab, L., M. J. Jarvis, et al. (2006). 'Prevalence, diagnosis and relation to tobacco dependence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a nationally representative population sample'. Thorax. Vol.59(11):pp 960-965), 2004. 61(12): 1043-1047.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has sought the advice of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel in relation to local *(a)* maternity and *(b)* accident and emergency services. [246055]

Ann Keen: Of the 14 full reviews that the Independent Reconfiguration Panel has conducted at the request of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, eight have included consideration of maternity services and included consideration of accident and emergency services.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 203-4W, on influenza, whether plans for separate antiviral distribution channels to reach *(a)* hard-to-reach groups and *(b)* others for whom the Flu Line will not be suited have now been developed; how he defines (i) hard-to-reach groups and (ii) others for whom the Flu Line will not be suited; and if he will make a statement. [245504]

Dawn Primarolo: Options are being developed in order to assist people through the process of using the Flu Line and also to support those people who are not able to able to use the standard process.

Examples of groups of people we have considered are:

those who may not have access to technology to use the Flu Line;

people in enclosed institutions (for example prisons, care homes);

those who may have complications which mean that they are not able to use the Flu Line; and

those who are unable to provide a means of identification to use as a unique identifier for the flu line system.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the vaccination of pregnant women against seasonal influenza referred to in the minutes of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's meeting of 14 February 2007; [245636]

(2) when the Health Protection Agency will complete its work examining the impact of influenza on pregnant women referred to in the minutes of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's meeting of 14 February 2007; whether he intends to place a copy of the work in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [245637]

Dawn Primarolo: At the 14 February 2007 meeting the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) was informed of a preliminary cost benefit analysis of the vaccination of pregnant women being undertaken by the Department. This analysis was not presented at the meeting because further data were required before a decision could be made. The preliminary analysis carried out by Departmental analysts has been placed in the Library.

Following this preliminary analysis, the Health Protection Agency (HPA) was commissioned by the Department to collect further information on the impact of influenza on pregnant women. This work is ongoing and the JCVI's influenza subgroup is being kept up to date on its progress.

Lithium

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of potential links between the use of the mood-stabiliser lithium and increased mitochondrial damage; and if he will make a statement. [246306]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not made or commissioned such an assessment.

Lung Spirometry

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include lung spirometry testing in the health MOT screening programme. [245971]

Ann Keen: The purpose of the vascular check programme, is to identify the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease, and for this risk to managed by appropriate follow up. The parameters and tests used in a vascular check include blood pressure, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI) and are based on economic modelling undertaken by the Department to help ensure the most clinically effective and cost-effective format for the checks. However, we will keep the components of the vascular health check under review as new evidence emerges in future.

Maternity Matters Implementation Group

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the role of the Maternity Matters Implementation Group in his Department is; [245744]

(2) how his Department plans to meet the commitment to enable all women to have choice over where and how they have their baby by 2009. [245745]

Ann Keen: In April 2007 the Department published "Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service", which focuses on improving the quality of care and ensuring women have a range of choices which will make it easier for them to access maternity services. A Maternity Matters Implementation Group was established to support early joint work on implementation between the Department and the national health service. Since then, each strategic health authority has developed its vision for services for maternity and the new born as part of the NHS Next Stage Review, and work on implementation is now being taken forward on a wider front.

Maternity services are once again included in the top clinical priorities highlighted in the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10, backed by increased investment and a planned increase in the number of midwives.

Mental Health Services

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department plans to issue to primary care trusts on responsible commissioning of independent mental health advocates services; and when guidance will be issued. [245946]

Phil Hope: Comprehensive guidance for primary care trusts on commissioning independent mental health advocate (IMHA) services was published on 18 December 2008. The guide outlines the statutory IMHA role, and discusses good practice for IMHA services and recommended commissioning processes. A copy of the guidance has been placed in the Library. The guidance is also available on the National Institute for Mental Health in England's website at:

http://mhact.csip.org.uk/.

Mental Health Services: Young People

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the 17 capital funded projects designed to help eliminate the inappropriate use of adult psychiatric wards for children and young people. [245751]

Ann Keen: The Government provided £31 million capital funding in 2007-08 to 17 projects. These projects were designed to provide 59 new beds, 45 beds relocated to purpose built facilities, and 52 beds in refurbished facilities.

A review of the progress made by the projects is currently under way.

The latest available figures for July to September 2008 show only four bed days for under-16s on adult psychiatric wards.

National Institute for Health Research Faculty

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the funding sources of the National Institute for Health Research Faculty; and if he will make a statement. [245769]

Dawn Primarolo: Members of the faculty of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) are national health service or university employed researchers whose salaries are funded, in part or in whole, by the NIHR or the Department's policy research programme. The funding may come from a range of NIHR sources including NIHR projects, programmes, units, centres and research networks.

As well as attracting support form from the NIHR, members of the faculty may also be funded from other sources, including the research councils, charities, industry, and other Government Departments.

The principal source of funding for the faculty's capacity and capability programmes is the NIHR budget.

NHS Early Years LifeCheck

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in the pilot of the NHS Early Years LifeCheck; and if he will make a statement. [245754]

Ann Keen: The NHS Early Years LifeCheck online service was piloted in selected Sure Start children's centres during spring 2008. After considering recommendations from the professional evaluation of the pilots, a revised version was launched in the 83 Community for Health spearhead and other deprived local authority areas in October 2008.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 926W, on NHS: drugs, if he will place in the Library copies of all submissions made to Professor Mike Richards' review reported on in "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients". [245649]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 926W.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the number of adverse reactions from medicinal drugs in each of the last three years. [246156]

Dawn Primarolo: Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the Yellow Card scheme. The Yellow Card scheme allows health professionals and patients to report suspected ADRs on a voluntary basis. In addition, there is a legal requirement for companies to report suspected ADRs to their drugs. The scheme collects suspected ADR reports from across the whole United Kingdom and includes all medicines, including prescription only medicines, pharmacy medicines and general sales. Reports are also received for herbal medicines and other unlicensed medicines.

The following table shows the number of suspected ADRs received by the MHRA between 2005 and 2007.

Year received by MHRA	*Total number of spontaneous UK suspected ADR reports received (including company ADR reports)*
2005	21,924
2006	22,016
2007	21,765

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to prescribers on special medicines. [246355]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not issued guidance on this subject.

NHS: Manpower

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed in the NHS in April 2008. [245765]

Ann Keen: The national work force census shows that there were 1,331,109 people employed in the national health service as at 30 September 2007. The following table shows the breakdown of staff groups. The information is available on the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk

NHS HCHS and General Practice work force as at 30 September each specified year, England, 2007

			Headcount
Total			1,331,109
Total employed staff (excluding GP retainers)			1,330,544
Professionally qualified clinical staff (excluding retainers)			681,246
	All doctors		128,210
	All doctors (excluding retainers)[1]		127,645
		Consultants (including directors of public health)	33,674
		Registrars	30,759
		Other doctors in training	16,024
		Hospital practitioners and clinical assistants (non-dental specialties) (3)	2,848
		Other medical and dental staff	11,333
		GPs (excluding retainers)[2]	35,855
		GPs excluding retainers and registrars	33,364
		GP Providers	27,342
		Other GPs	6,022
		GP registrars	2,491
		GP retainers	565
	Total qualified nursing staff[3]		399,597
		Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	376,737
		GP practice nurses[2, 4]	22,860
	Total qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff[5]		136,976
		Qualified Allied Health Professions	68,687
		Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	68,289
	Qualified ambulance staff		17,028
Support to clinical staff			346,596
	Support to doctors and nursing staff		281,894
	Support to scientific, therapeutic and technical staff		53,259
	Support to ambulance staff		11,443

NHS HCHS and General Practice work force as at 30 September each specified year, England, 2007

			Headcount
NHS infrastructure support			207,778
	Central functions		100,177
	Hotel, property and estates		71,102
	Manager and senior manager		36,499
Other non-medical staff or those with unknown classification			400
Other GP practice staff[2]			94,515

[1] All doctors excluding GP retainers.
[2] GP data as at 1 C.
[3] Nursing and midwifery figures exclude students on training courses leading to a first qualification as a nurse or midwife.
[4] Headcount practice nurse figures are estimated for 1998 and 1999 based on the 1997 FTE to headcount ratio.
[5] To make the census data comparable with the Review Body for Nursing Staff and Other Health Professionals definitions, qualified Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) now include Speech and Language Therapists (previously these were included in Other Qualified ST and T staff).
For comparability, historical data has been reassigned to match the revised definition. The number of AHPs will not match those published in previous years.
In 2006, ambulance staff were collected under new, more detailed, occupation codes. As a result, qualified totals and support to ambulance staff totals are not directly comparable with previous years.
Enhanced validation processes have led to the removal of duplicate records from the non-medical census (from 2006 onwards).
Note:
Although percentages were small (less than 1 per cent.), comparisons with years prior to this need to be treated with caution. This only effects headcount.
Source:
The Information Centre.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what standards of accreditation are required by NHS trusts of laboratories testing products for use in NHS hospitals; what powers his Department has to enforce those standards; and if he will make a statement. [246326]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) licences facilities that manufacture, assemble and/or import medicinal products for human use. The holder of a manufacturer's licence may use a contract laboratory approved by MHRA for the testing of their medicinal products.

A quality control laboratory, which is performing analysis of medicinal products for a licensed manufacturer and which is named by the holder on their licence, is required to comply with European Union guidelines for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and is inspected by MHRA against these requirements on a routine basis.

The requirement for a manufacturer's licence and compliance with GMP is enforced by MHRA, acting on behalf of the licensing authority, through the Medicines Act 1968 and its supporting regulations.

A licence is not required for preparation of medicinal products where this is carried out solely for retail sale or supply, by or under the supervision of a pharmacist in a registered pharmacy or hospital. However, registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are bound by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain's "Code of Ethics for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians" and the supporting professional standards.

Patients: Safety

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were harmed as a result of an error or missed diagnosis in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last 12 months. [245807]

Ann Keen: For the period from July 2007 to June 2008, the National Patient Safety Agency received 2,300 reports where patients were harmed due to patient safety incidents classified as diagnostic delay, failure or error. Ninety-nine of these incidents were reported from the North East Strategic Health Authority. Reporting and learning data are collected on the basis of service providers. It is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of data to constituency level.

People Matters Executive Group

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions the People Matters Executive Group has met. [245766]

Ann Keen: The People Matters Executive Group has met 13 times since it was created in November 2007.

Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how sufficient stocks of medicines to meet patient demand will be ensured when the new pharmaceutical price regulation scheme is implemented; [246793]

(2) whether his Department has agreed with medicines manufacturers stock compensation arrangements for pharmaceutical wholesalers when the new pharmaceutical price regulation scheme is implemented; [246794]

(3) whether his Department has conducted an assessment of the effects of the new pharmaceutical price regulation scheme on the availability of medicines. [246795]

Dawn Primarolo: Implementation of the price cut has been delayed until February 2009 to allow further time for arrangements to be made and to avoid coinciding with the Christmas period. Stock compensation is a matter for pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers to agree. The Department is in regular contact with pharmaceutical companies and wholesalers and does not expect that the implementation of the 2009 pharmaceutical price regulation scheme will lead to shortages of medicines.

However, medicine supply problems can and do occur for a number of reasons and often it is not possible to predict them. The Department of Health and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry have published joint best practice guidelines in order to help manage shortages as and when they arise. These guidelines give guidance to companies on what to do in the event of a shortage and recommend that companies communicate

with the Department as soon as possible about impending shortages that are likely to have an impact on patient care.

Quality and Outcomes Framework

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the difference between the lowest and highest rate of exception reporting for quality outcomes framework indicator CHD 08 was in each year since the introduction of the framework. [245881]

Ann Keen: The lowest and highest rates of exception reporting for the Quality and Outcomes Framework indicator Coronary Heart Disease 08, for each year of the framework[1] is as follows:

2007-08: 0 per cent. and 100 per cent.

2006-07: 0 per cent. and 100 per cent.

2005-06: 0 per cent. and 75 per cent.

[1] Data unavailable for 2004-05

Source:

Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Regional Innovation Hubs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding is given from the public purse to regional innovation hubs in the last year for which figures are available. [245968]

Dawn Primarolo: The innovation hubs have historically received funding from four different sources.

Funding for this financial year (2008-09) is as follows:

The Department—circa £4.7 million

The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (NHSI) channels Department-derived funds to the innovation hubs, under the terms of an annual service level agreement between the hubs and the National Innovation Centre (as the agent of the NHSI). The amount allocated to each individual hub is on a capitation basis.

Department for Trade and Industry (now Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills) Public Sector Research Establishment (PSRE)—£2.7 million

On behalf of their trust membership, each hub has the opportunity to competitively bid for funding for specific "pump-priming" activities in the region. Examples of "pump-priming" are to build local networks or conduct informative workshops to assist regional innovators, basically to initiate some activity, which would otherwise not occur. PSRE funding is also contingent on the hubs demonstrating that they have a source of matched funding.

Local regional development agencies (RDAs)—£1.9 million

The RDAs have tapped into the specialist NHS knowledge base of the hubs to effectively use them in what may be described as "the Business Link function for Healthcare" and assist the RDAs in achieving their own targets and objectives.

Other income—circa £2 million

The hubs also received income from other sources, which are generated by their own local activities. Examples of such sources include membership fees, specific consultancy assignments and income revenue from licensing agreements.

Smoking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to provide *(a)* extra support for and *(b)* incentives to those attempting to give up smoking since the entry into force of the smoking ban. [245862]

Dawn Primarolo: A wide of range of support is available from the national health service for smokers who wish to give up smoking. Options are available on the NHS 'Go Smokefree' website at:

www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree

or from the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0169.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for the provision of NHS local stop smoking services. Within communities, PCTs make free support available in a range of innovative ways to support smokers who wish to quit.

Smokers who use NHS support to quit are up to four times more likely to do so successfully than those trying to go it alone "cold turkey".

The Department also has a marketing strategy aimed at encouraging smokers to quit, particularly with the support of the NHS.

Sunbeds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research he has commissioned on the regulation of the sunbed industry in other countries for benchmarking purposes in the last two years; [246160]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* the use of sunbeds in the health and fitness facilities operated by local authorities and *(b)* the risks associated with such use; [246161]

(3) what representations he has received on *(a)* the health risks associated with sunbeds and *(b)* the regulation of the sunbed industry in the last 12 months; [246162]

(4) what recent meetings his Department has had with representatives of the sunbed industry on options for sunbed regulation; [246163]

(5) what options are being considered for regulation of *(a)* the sunbed industry and *(b)* sunbed usage by persons under 18 years of age; [246209]

(6) what progress has been made since the Cancer Reform Strategy was published in December 2007 on *(a)* reviewing options for regulation of the sunbed industry, *(b)* gathering information on the number and distribution of sunbeds and *(c)* gathering information on the scale of sunbed use by minors. [246210]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department regularly receives Parliamentary questions and correspondence from hon. Members and other interested parties regarding the health risks of sunbeds including, in some cases, requests for the regulation of the sunbed industry. Such requests are considered in the context of the ongoing review of options for possible regulation of the sunbed industry, including access to sunbeds by young people. The review has been broad-ranging in its scope and, as part of it, officials from the Department and other Government departments, including Communities and Local Government, have discussed issues concerning the use of sunbeds in different types of facilities and settings.

Since the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy, the Department has also worked with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and other stakeholders (including some representatives of the sunbed industry) on the HSE's review of its guidance for users and operators of sunbeds. HSE expect to publish the guidance and a summary of the consultation responses early in 2009.

In conducting its review of options, the Department has drawn on a range of evidence from this country and abroad. For example, in 2007, the Welsh Assembly Government, supported by the Scottish Executive, National Health Service NI and the English Department of Health have requested that the Comnittee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment update their advice regarding the safety of ultra violet sunbeds in the United Kingdom. A report is expected in 2009.

The Department has also taken steps to gather further information on the number and distribution of sunbeds, and on the extent of sunbed use by young people, as mentioned in the Cancer Reform Strategy.

All of these will inform considerations on options for the possible regulation of the sunbed industry.

Tobacco: Public Consultation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the responses to his Department's consultation on the future of tobacco control were from *(a)* retailers or shop owners and *(b)* organisations funded wholly or in part by his Department. [245508]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department received 10,586 responses from small retailers (including pre-prepared postcards or emails made available to respondents by third parties), 11 responses from larger retailers and 21 responses from retail industry representative organisations, including trade associations.

The Department received seven responses from organisations that receive funding directly from the Department for programmes of work related to smoking. Identification of respondents that receive funding from the Department for other purposes could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department received 85,565 responses from members of the public (including pre-prepared postcards or emails made available to respondents by third parties).

Tobacco: Regulation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the address of each regional tobacco control manager is; and whether they are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [245970]

Dawn Primarolo: The addresses of Regional Tobacco Policy Managers (RTPMs) are as follows and are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/Tobacco/DH_089018

North East

Smoke Free, North East Office
Civic Centre,
Chester-le-Street District Council
Newcastle Road
Chester-le-Street
County Durham, DH3 3UT

North West

North West Public Health Team
Government Office North West
18th Floor, City Tower
Piccadilly Plaza
Manchester, M1 4BE

Yorkshire and Humber

Government Office For Yorkshire and Humber
6th Floor West Wing,
PO Box 213
City House,
New Station Street
Leeds

East Midlands

Government Office East Midlands
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place
Talbot Street
Nottingham, NG1 5GG

West Midlands

5 St. Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham B3 2PW

East of England

East of England Public Health Group
Government Office for the East of England
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge, CB2 2DF

London

Regional Public Health Group: London
5th Floor Riverwalk House
157-161 Millbank
London SW1P 4RR

South East

Government Office for the South East
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford, GU1 4GA

South West

Regional Public Health Group
Government Office for the South West
2 Rivergate
Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6ED

As RTPMs are based in Government offices for the regions, the national health service or local authorities, they are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (c.36).

Tuberculosis: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of tuberculosis have been recorded in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each quarter of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246562]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table gives the number of Tuberculosis cases in the area of Dacorum borough council as the closest measure for Hemel Hempstead, and for Hertfordshire, for the calendar years 2000-06.

Cases of Tuberculosis

Area	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Hertfordshire	55	60	60	53	69	111	96
Dacorum	<5	0	6	<5	5	7	7

Notes:
1. Hertforshire comprises: Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, Hertsmere, North Hertfordshire, St Albans, Stevenage, Three Rivers, Watford, and Welwyn Hatfield Local Authorities
2. Data by local authority are not yet available for 2007
3. Data are not provided by quarters because of the risk of deductive disclosure due to low numbers.
4. In years when there have been less than five cases, the exact number of cases is not given because of the risk of deductive disclosure.

Source:
Health Protection Agency - Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance (ETS) system

User-led Organisations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many user-led organisations have become user-led action and learning sites; [245733]

(2) how much has been allocated to the User-led Organisations Development Fund for 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [245734]

Phil Hope: £750,000 of the User-led Organisations Development Fund was made available in 2007-08 to support 12 user-led action and learning sites from March 2008. Over 100 user-led organisations applied.

A further £900,000 for the User-led Organisations Development Fund has been made available in 2008-09 to support the development of up to 14 additional action and learning sites from January 2009. Over 70 organisations applied. We will announce shortly how that funding is to be allocated.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration employs; what its running costs are expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [245690]

Mr. Woolas: The Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration does not employ any staff. Until it ceased to operate on 20 November 2008, two UK Border Agency staff provided Secretariat support to the Board.

It is not possible to separately identify its running costs for 2008-09 in the UK Border Agency accounts. As it has now ceased to operate, its running costs in 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be nil.

Alcohol Disorder Zones

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities have contacted her Department with enquiries concerning the establishment of alcohol disorder zones. [246844]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on the 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1067W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of the offence of consuming alcohol in a designated place in each of the last five years. [246860]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 713-14W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the provisional findings of the evaluation of alcohol arrest referral pilots. [245943]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office will not be releasing interim findings as the intention is to publish a final research report after the evaluation has been completed. The evaluation runs until July 2009.

Alcoholic Drinks: Thames Valley

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests for alcohol-related offences there were in the Thames Valley police force area in each of the last 20 quarters for which records are available, broken down by basic command unit. [244434]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of offenders issued with a caution for alcohol related offences in the Thames Valley police force area, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available), by quarter, are given in the table.

In addition under the penalty notice for disorder scheme implemented across all 43 forces in England and Wales in 2004, fixed penalties of £50 or £80 can be issued by the police for a specified range of alcohol-related offences. The numbers issued in Thames Valley from 2004 to 2007 by quarter are also given in the table.

Information on court proceedings are centrally collected only for each police force area, therefore data by basic command unit cannot be supplied.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for alcohol related offences[2] and issued with penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)[3] in the Thames Valley police force area, broken down by quarter, 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

	Cautions	*PNDs[6]*
2003		
Quarter 1	90	n/a
Quarter 2	112	n/a
Quarter 3	95	n/a

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for alcohol related offences[2] and issued with penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)[3] in the Thames Valley police force area, broken down by quarter, 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

	Cautions	PNDs[6]
Quarter 4	93	n/a
2004		
Quarter 1	127	n/a
Quarter 2	125	34
Quarter 3	92	190
Quarter 4	52	183
2005		
Quarter 1	27	92
Quarter 2	22	81
Quarter 3	19	99
Quarter 4	18	102
2006		
Quarter 1	27	79
Quarter 2	23	116
Quarter 3	16	87
Quarter 4	11	136
2007		
Quarter 1	15	108
Quarter 2	22	153
Quarter 3	30	140
Quarter 4	25	132

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] Includes offences of;
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.
[3] Includes all alcohol related penalty notices for disorder;
Drunk and disorderly
Selling alcohol to person under 18
Selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
Supplying alcohol to a person under 18
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 for consumption in a bar in licensed premises
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Being drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises
Consuming alcohol in designated public place
Consuming alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchase of alcohol by a person under 18,
[4] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[6] PNDs became available, from April 2004, under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
Source:
Evidence and Analysis unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of an offence under section 147A(1)(a) of the Licensing Act 2003 in each year since the offence was created. [246862]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 December 2008, *Official Report,* column 505W.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the use of *(a)* anti-social behaviour orders, *(b)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(c)* individual support orders since the publication of the National Audit Office's report on anti-social behaviour, HC (2006-07) 99, in December 2006. [246851]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has commissioned research to examine regional variations in the use of antisocial behaviour interventions. This is the first step to developing further work into the comparative effectiveness of different approaches to tackling antisocial behaviour. The first stage of the research into regional variations was completed in summer 2008. We anticipate that the second stage will be completed by late 2009.

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for her Department's Antisocial Behaviour Action Line is; how many people work on running the action line; and how many calls it received in the last 12 months. [245954]

Mr. Alan Campbell: For the financial year 2008-09, the budget for the Home Office's Antisocial Behaviour Actionline is £400,000. There are five people directly employed to run the service and during the period November 2007 to November 2008, the Actionline received 3,987 calls, 1,467 emails and the website received 335,450 visitors.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visits the Effective Practice database on the crime reduction website received in each of the last 12 months. [245955]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Effective Practice Database was designed in response to community safety practitioner demand for a single place to collate evaluated crime reduction initiatives at a national level. The purpose of the database is to house case studies of local initiatives which have been evaluated to show a successful impact on crime or related issues of community safety in an easily searchable format. The link to the database is:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/effectivepracticedatabase/.

The database went live on the Crime Reduction website on 23 January 2008 and the stats package used to compile these data (Sitestat) did not go live until 11 February 2008. There is, therefore, a two week gap in the data between Effective Practice Database go live date and Sitestat data availability and as such a breakdown of monthly figures is only available from February to November 2008.

The data show the number of visits made to the database, i.e. the number of individuals who accessed the Effective Practice Database home page each month; it is not a count of page views.

Month	Number of visits
2008	
February	113
March	1191
April	930
May	615
June	575
July	540
August	418
September	541
October	637
November	623

Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the value of the assets involved in those cases adopted by the Assets Recovery Agency in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05, *(c)* 2005-06, *(d)* 2006-07 and *(e)* 2007-08; [243783]

(2) how many cases were referred to the Assets Recovery Agency by other law enforcement agencies for criminal confiscation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; and how many such cases were referred for civil recovery and taxation investigation in (A) Northern Ireland and (B) the UK in each such year; [243784]

(3) how many cases the Assets Recovery Agency adopted for criminal confiscation action in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [243785]

(4) how many cases the Assets Recovery Agency concluded in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [243786]

(5) what the estimated value of the assets involved in cases concluded by the Assets Recovery Agency was in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [243787]

(6) what estimate she has made of the value of the assets involved in cases adopted by the Assets Recovery Agency for civil or tax investigation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08; [243788]

(7) how many cases were adopted by the Assets Recovery Agency for civil or tax investigation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06, (iv) 2006-07 and (v) 2007-08. [243789]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on *(a)* cases referred to and adopted by the Assets Recovery Agency and the value of assets involved; and on *(b)* cases concluded and the value of assets involved was included in the Annual Reports of the Agency, which were laid before Parliament, and in the relevant Annual Resource Accounts.

Some Northern Ireland-specific data can be found in the Northern Ireland Organised Crime Task Force's (OCTF) Annual Report and Threat Assessment for the requisite year, which are available from the OCTF website: www.octf.gov.uk or from the Northern Ireland Office website: www.nio.gov.uk

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were under investigation by the Assets Recovery Agency at 31 March 2008 with a view to criminal confiscation where no action had been taken to restrain assets; what the estimated value of the assets under investigation in those cases was; how many of those investigations were subsequently terminated by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency without court action; what the reasons for termination was in each case; what the estimated value of the assets in the cases terminated was; and what steps have been taken to ensure that the relevant assets do not remain in the hands of criminals in those cases terminated without court action in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK. [243842]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data relating to the transfer of cases from the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serous Organised Crime Agency were not collated to this level of detail, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* financial investigators and *(b)* lawyers were employed in the Assets Recovery Agency in (i) the UK and (ii) Northern Ireland on 31 March 2008. [243924]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Assets Recovery Agency employed 53 financial investigators on 31 March 2008, of which 16 were in Northern Ireland. On the same date it employed 27 lawyers of which seven were in Northern Ireland.

Assets Recovery Agency: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by the Assets Recovery Agency in pursuing its work in Northern Ireland in 2007-08. [243925]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not available.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the additional costs to local authorities of decisions made under the Case Resolution programme for asylum legacy cases which have resulted in the granting of leave to remain. [243112]

Mr. Woolas: I am in a position to report that following Ms Lin Homer's appearance before the Home Affairs Select Committee on 20 November 2008, she wrote to the committee on 8 December 2008 with an update on the legacy programme. This contains the latest position on agreed payments to local authorities.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum-seekers *(a)* in total and *(b)* who will enter and remain in the UK in each year to 2018. [244496]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) People leave their countries of origin and claim asylum elsewhere in response to world events. Where those events will be and the countries to which people flee, are inherently unpredictable. Estimates of the total number of asylum seekers are thus not available.

(b) The proportion of those who do claim in the UK who are subsequently granted leave to remain here also depends on the current world situation at the time of claim. All asylum claims are considered without prejudice on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 UN Convention and the 1967 Protocol. The estimates of the number of asylum seekers who enter and remain in the UK in each year to 2018 is subject to the same level of unpredictability and are thus also unavailable.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what security checks are carried out on *(a)* external companies contracted and *(b)* personnel employed to escort refugees being deported. [244686]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The contract for the escorting of individuals being removed or deported from the UK is operated by Group 4 Securicor (G4S), this company would have been subject to commercial and credit checks when tendering for the contract.

The contractors employ Detainee Custody Officers (DCOs) to carry out the duties of escorting those people being removed from the UK, all individuals seeking employment as a DCOs are required to undergo counter-terrorist checks and criminal record checks to enhanced level, and before they can commence employment they have to be accredited by the UK Border Agency Detention Services Accreditation Team.

Applicants must pass all the security checks before they can be accredited.

British Nationality: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* London gained full citizenship in each year since 1997. [245461]

Mr. Woolas: Specific data on the number of residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency who have acquired British citizenship since 1997 are not available.

The relevant available data refers to the number of people attending British citizenship ceremonies. Those attending such ceremonies may not necessarily be resident within the area of the authority conducting the ceremony. Such data are only captured for citizenship ceremonies attended since 2005 as the requirement to attend such a ceremony was not introduced in law until 2004. It is not possible to separately identify parliamentary constituencies within data because information regarding location is based on the reporting authority.

Ceremonies are organised by county or local authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age. The data therefore exclude some grants to applicants under 18.

Data relating to the number of British citizenship ceremonies attended in Greater London and the London borough of Bexley between 2005 and 2007 are shown in the table.

National Statistics on persons granted British citizenship are published annually in Home Office Statistical Bulletins. The latest publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0508.pdf

Data regarding British citizenship decisions and ceremonies attended in 2008 are scheduled for publication in May 2009.

Persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by selected region and authority, 2005-07[1]

Number of persons

	2005	2006 (R)	2007 (P)
Greater London region	63,045	56,995	61,690
Of which:			
Bexley	605	550	605

[1] A ceremony organised by county or local authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age for British citizenship.

Cannabis

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues and officials in the Ministry of Justice on implementing the proposed three strikes enforcement regime for cannabis possession pursuant to its re-classification as a Class B drug; and if she will make a statement. [246845]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Ministers and officials have had discussions with their counterparts in the Ministry of Justice throughout the development of the policing response, proposed by the Association of Chief Police Officers, to the possession of cannabis as a Class B drug. Discussions have included the extension of the Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme to cannabis possession as part of the enforcement regime in respect of which the Ministry of Justice has lead responsibility.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue new guidance to police on the issuing of warnings, cautions and charging for possession of cannabis following its re-classification as a Class B drug. [246846]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To accompany the reclassification of cannabis to a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the Association of Chief Police Officers will issue revised guidance for a consistent national approach to the policing of the possession of cannabis in England and Wales.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether she has plans to review her Department's policy on protective marking and vetting of documents in response to paragraph 77 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; and if she will make a statement; [246227]

(2) what steps her Department plans to take on the dissemination of information and academic research on the causes of violent extremism following the Audit Commission's report on Preventing Violent Extremism of November 2008; and what steps she plans to take to provide such information to local partnerships; [245501]

(3) what plans her Department has to develop National Indicator 35 into a measure of the achievement of outcomes as recommended by the Audit Commission in its November 2008 report, "Preventing Violent Extremism"; [245502]

(4) what steps her Department plans to take to provide more information identifying factors that make some people vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism, as noted on page 23 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise; and if she will make a statement; [246200]

(5) whether she has plans to develop a suite of information sources to be used at local level in relation to counter-terrorism, in response to paragraph 60 of the Audit Commission's November 2008 report Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise. [246228]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

A number of reviews took place over the summer which sought to draw out learning and emerging practice on the delivery of activity to prevent violent extremism, including the joint Audit Commission and HMIC Learning and Development Exercise (LDE). Though each review had a different focus, together they provide a useful package of learning material upon which local partners can draw and which will inform the Government's approach to Prevent.

There are a number of common themes which run through all these reviews. Some of these require action from national Government, some from local partners and many from both. We have ensured wide distribution of the LDE report to enable local partners to benefit directly from the important learning it contains in taking forward their local Prevent response. We published "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" on 10 December, which sets out the key strands of learning from the reviews and work already underway to address these key themes. We will continue to develop our response to the reviews throughout the year.

I will place a copy of "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" in the Library of the House.

Computers: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1430W, on computers: crime, when she plans to launch the consultation on plans to extend the application of serious crime prevention orders to offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. [246848]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The intention was to launch the consultation in November 2008 but advice is currently being sought as to the necessity of this consultation, as there is a view that the Act already allows offences under the Computer Misuse Act to be covered. I will write to the hon. Member in January to update you on the outcome of these findings.

Crime: Business

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost of crime to business. [245794]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are currently no year-on-year on estimates of the costs of crime to business.

The Home Office first published estimates of the economic and social costs of crime in 2000. The research estimated the cost of:

crime against individuals and households
commercial and public sector victimisation
fraud and forgery
traffic and motoring/other non-notifiable offences

and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs/hors217.pdf

There is a further Home Office publication in 2002-03 focusing on Crime against Retail and Manufacturing Premises and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3705.pdf

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans her Department has for future staffing levels in the Business Crime Team; [245795]

(2) how many people within her Department work exclusively on tackling business crime. [245796]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Many different parts of the Home Office work to tackle crimes that affect business, such as fraud, e-crime, retail theft, criminal damage and alcohol-related crime. Some of these issues affect both businesses and general members of the public and so officials in these teams cannot be said to be working exclusively on business crime, although they will be contributing directly to its reduction. A business crime team did work exclusively on some very specific aspects of business crime, mainly shop theft. This work is now to be included in a new volume crime team in the Department. The scope of this new team will be broader than that of the business crime team, and include crimes such as burglary and vehicle crime which also affect businesses. This will enable a fuller and more efficient response to volume crimes committed against business to be developed. The volume crime team will also support a more responsive approach, being able to focus more flexibly on critical volume crime issues, including those affecting business, as and when necessary.

Crime: Closed Circuit Television

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in the implementation of the National Closed Circuit Television Strategy; and if she will make a statement. [245953]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following publication of the National CCTV Strategy in October 2007, good progress has been made in moving towards implementing the 44 recommendations.

The National Policing Improvement Agency took over responsibility for the Strategy in the Spring of 2008. A National CCTV Strategy Programme Board

has been established and has delivered three of these recommendations. These include:

1. Seeking to influence national and international CCTV standards

2. Clarifying the requirements in relation to operator licensing by the Security Industry Association (SIA)

3. Developing protocols allowing the use of Airwave radio in town centre CCTV control rooms and the sharing of intelligence between the police and town centre CCTV monitoring staff.

There is an intention to progress a further 24 recommendations during the next 12 months with the remaining 17 being progressed through 2010 and 2011. This will continue to develop and improve the effectiveness of the CCTV currently in use in England and Wales. On 19 November 2008 at the House of Lords Constitutional Committee hearing we confirmed the Government's commitment to implementing recommendation 1, that there should be a national body to oversee CCTV. The Programme Board is now preparing proposals including a timetable, for the establishment of this body.

The continued development of CCTV as both a deterrent for criminal activity and protection for the public will add to the confidence and safety of our communities. A recent report by the Campbell Crime and Justice Group

http://db.c2admin.org/doc-pdf/Welsh_CCTV_review.pdf

which includes United Kingdom (UK) membership and whose review was part funded by the Home Office, included the observation that CCTV is more effective in reducing crime in the UK than in other countries. The Government support the use of closed circuit television in tackling and reducing crime. CCTV is most effective when used along side other measures.

Crimes of Violence: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded incidents of violent crime there were in *(a)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in each of the last five years. [246074]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and is given in the following table.

Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police, 2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Stockport	4,313	4,427	4,409	4,571	3,727
Greater Manchester	53,972	53,208	52,948	57,051	50,287
North West Region	128,041	143,773	144,309	135,292	119,188

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with how many faith-based organisations her Department has contracts to provide public services. [244839]

Mr. Woolas: In making contracts for the provision of public services, my Department only selects organisations that meet the proper criteria and have the most relevant expertise and experience to offer. The extent to which such organisations are faith-based is not evident in every case. An accurate total or comprehensive list could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment she has made of her Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246019]

Mr. Woolas: The department publishes annually its employment monitoring report for its workforce covering all the areas in the parliamentary question. Copies of the report can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/equalityanddiversity1/staffequalitytargets/?view=Standard

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in her Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244390]

Mr. Woolas: All staff employed directly by my Department, whether permanent or temporary, are on similar terms and conditions including those which determine their pay.

Deportation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* immigrants and *(b)* asylum seekers who have been returned to their country of origin in each of the last five years (i) have had severe health problems, (ii) have had mental illnesses and (iii) were pregnant. [243671]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals who had no legal basis to remain in the UK and who were normally resident in the Peterborough City Council area have been deported since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [246150]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Detention Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of detainees held at Oakington immigration removal centre are eligible for legal aid-funded advice. [245314]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

Detainees at Oakington are eligible for legal aid on the same basis as other individuals. Provided their case is within the scope of the legal aid scheme, and they pass the statutory test of means and merits, legal aid will be available. It is not possible to say what percentage of the detainees at Oakington will meet these criteria.

The Legal Services Commission contracts with a single not-for-profit agency to provide on-site legal services at Oakington. Between April and November 2008 (inclusive)—1,448 asylum and 508 non-asylum matters were started for eligible detainees.

In addition on-site legal advice surgeries provide up to 30 minutes advice without reference to means or merits to any individual who does not have a legal adviser

Domestic Violence

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the level of domestic violence in *(a)* England, *(b)* Merseyside and *(c)* Halton. [244207]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The most recent assessment of the level of domestic violence is from the British Crime Survey (BCS) 2007-08 published in the annual 'Crime in England and Wales' statistical bulletin, copies of which are in the House of Commons Library.

The latest figure from the 2007-08 BCS for the number of domestic violence incidents per 10,000 adults in England is 78.

Figures from the BCS for the number of incidents of domestic violence per 10,000 adults in Merseyside or Halton are not reported due to the variability of these figures at police force area level or below.

Domestic Violence: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government have taken to prevent domestic violence, with particular reference to the North East. [245870]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to tackling and preventing domestic violence. We have a cross-Government National Domestic Violence Delivery plan which provides a strategic framework to address domestic violence to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice whilst providing the best possible help for victims and their children. The plan ensures agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases and better share information so that more offenders are brought to justice, victims are protected and better supported; and further violence is prevented.

Initiatives in the North East of England include the expansion of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court programme (SDVC); the roll-out of multi-agency risk assessment conferences (Northumberland and Durham have one MARAC to cover the county area); and supporting the establishment of Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (currently working in all SDVC areas and also Newcastle, South Tyneside and Northumberland). The Government have also supported regional awareness raising events such as the launch of the "Choice" helpline and the "Honour Network" helpline for survivors of "honour" based violence and forced marriage.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cars were seized for being uninsured in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [245886]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The police seizure power is in respect of a vehicle being driven by someone who is not insured to drive it, rather than the insurance status of the vehicle itself. 153,822 vehicles were seized under this power in 2007. So far in 2008 returns by police forces indicate that 138,373 vehicles have been seized. This number is likely to rise considerably because not all returns have yet been made and there will be further seizures in the rest of December.

Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* heroin and *(b)* crack cocaine has been seized in each of the last 10 years. [245947]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The latest available data on drug seizures are for 2006-07 and can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales 2006/07". The quantity of heroin and crack cocaine seized in each of the last 10 years, in England and Wales, is provided in the following table.

Number and quantity[1] of seizures of class A drugs by drug type and year, England and Wales

	Number of seizures and quantity seized Class A (weighted kg)[2]	
Drug type	*Crack*	*Heroin*
1997	36	539
1998	27	457
1999	41	1,440
2000	26	3,329
2001	55	3,996
2002	54	2,615
2003	251	2,657
2004	133	2,109
2005	149	1,864
2006-07[3,4]	98	1,003

[1] Drugs can be seized in a variety of forms or preparation types. In this table, quantities of drugs have been converted to weights (kg). In order to convert seizures to comparable units, conversion factors are applied to estimate the overall quantity for that drug. New conversion factors were introduced in 2005, in consultation with the Forensic Science Service.

[2] Seizures of unspecified quantities are not included.

[3] Reporting of drugs seizures have been moved to a financial year basis from 2006-07 to be comparable with other crime publications.

[4] Prior to 2006-07 data included seizures made by the National Crime Squad (NCS). This organisation was merged on 1 April 2006 into the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). SOCA figures are not included due to concerns over double counting. Whereas many joint operations between the NCS and police forces were attributed to the NCS, the majority of SOCA seizures are credited to a local police force when one has been involved.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and HM Revenue and Customs. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Drugs: Prices

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the street price of *(a)* heroin and *(b)* cocaine. [245948]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Street prices for drugs vary considerably and are dependent on a number of factors, including purity and quality. The following prices are based on data collected from police forces and the Serious Organised Crime Agency:

(a) Heroin - from £25 to £100 per gram, with the most common prices being £40 and £50 per gram.

(b) Cocaine - from £20 to £80 per gram, with the most common price being £40 per gram.

Drugs: Smuggling

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vessels have been intercepted in British waters by the cutter fleet operated by the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years; and what quantity of drugs have been seized in such operations. [245956]

Mr. Woolas: From April 2008 the UK Border Agency took on responsibility for maritime operations, which had previously been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs and were formerly the responsibility of HM Customs and Excise.

The mobile and flexible cutter fleet, work regularly in support of operations by other law enforcement agencies, in order to target illicit imports of drugs, weapons and other prohibited and restricted goods. Information as to how those vessels have been deployed cannot be disclosed, as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention of crime.

Entry Clearances

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department expects to issue Mr. Emiljano Beqo (FCO number 22920) with a visa via the British Embassy in Athens. [245958]

Mr. Woolas: Visa officials at the British embassy in Athens are in contact with Mr. Beqo and expect to issue him with a visa when he returns from Albania in early January.

Firearms: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the extent to which *(a)* legally held firearms and *(b)* illegally held firearms were used to commit crimes in each of the last five years. [244850]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to determine how many of the firearms used in recorded crimes are licensed firearms and how many are illegally held. It is not always possible to categorise the type of weapon used in an offence.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 321-22W, on foreign workers: health services, how many economic migrants were working in each occupational category at the latest date for which figures are available. [246061]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables provide information on the number of work permits approved and Worker Registration Scheme certificates issued by occupation category.

Work permit approvals for the period 1 January 2000 to 30 September 2008

Occupation	*Total*
Acupuncturist	230
Assistant Dentist	655
Assistant Optometrist	5
Biomedical Scientist	785
Chiropodist/Podiatrist	45
Chiropractor	245
Dental Anaesthetist	45
Dental Nurse	380
Dental Surgeon	1,705
Dietician	350
Doctor	19,435
Foundation Programme Doctor	705
Hospital Consultant	690
Medical Practitioner	2,975
Midwife	780
Nurse	178,305
Occupational Therapist	1,680
Optician	735
Other Health/Medical Occupation	60,845
Pharmacist	5,655
Physiotherapist	2,935
Psychiatrist	1,295
Psychologist	375
Radiographer	3,075
Senior Carer	12,465
Senior House Officer	1,045
Social Worker	5,955
Specialist Registrar	1,000
Speech Therapist	440
Total	304,910

Caveat:

Work permit approvals includes all work permit application types—including work permit Extensions, Change of Employment and Technical Changes to existing work permits and therefore does not equate to the number of individuals to whom permits were issued. The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Additionally, not all of those who are granted a permit take up the job, some may be refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Worker Registration Scheme certificates granted for the period 1 May 2004 to 30 September 2008

Occupation	Total
Alternative/complementary medicine specialist	30
Anaesthetist	170
Care assistants and home carers	22,765
Chiropodist	—
Consultant, hospital	255
Dental Hygienist	80
Dental Nurse	420
Dental practitioner	385
Dietician	5
Doctor (hospital)	860
General Practitioner	130
Manager, care home	40
Manager, health and social services	135
Midwife	5
Nurse	425
Nursing auxiliaries and assistants	570
Optician	65
Pharmacist/Pharmacologist	730
Physiologist	10
Physiotherapist	70
Psychiatrist	45
Psychologist	15
Researcher (medical)	430
Residential wardens and Housepersons	285
Social Worker	390
Surgeon	75
Technician, medical	360
Ward Sister	15
Warden (care home)	65
Total	28,840

— = Indicates one or two.

Caveats:

1. The figures are for initial applications only; they do not include multiple applications, where an individual is doing more than one job simultaneously nor re-registrations, where an individual has changed employers.
2. Data presented up to the same period as the current published Accession Monitoring report.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The occupational categories used are not compatible with the Standard Occupational Classification.

Former Ministers: Security

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which former Ministers continue to receive security protection; and how much it has cost to provide this protection, broken down by individual former Ministers, in each year since they left office. [243261]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* It is our long established policy not to comment on protective security arrangements (and their associated costs) for any individual. This is because to do so could compromise the integrity of those arrangements and affect the security of the individuals concerned.

Genetics: Databases

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will bring forward proposals to impose time limits on the retention of people's DNA profiles on the national DNA database related to the seriousness of the offence where convicted; [240930]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to remove from the national DNA database profiles of people who have not been convicted of an offence. [240931]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary mentioned the European Court ruling in her speech on 16 December to the Intellect Trade Association dealing with surveillance issues.

We are carefully considering the detail of the judgment in the S and Marper case and its implications. DNA is a prime example where benefits to the criminal justice system and the rights of the individual need to be carefully balanced.

That is why our approach to the European Court's Judgment will be subject to wide consultation this year in a White Paper on Forensics.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research into the proportion of the *(a)* black and *(b)* non-black population with DNA samples retained on the national DNA database, and the reasons for any difference in frequency. [242012]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has completed Stage 1 Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) and the Association of Chief Police Officers DNA Good Practice Guide to identify any potential adverse effects or any bias contained within DNA sampling guidance or NDNAD processes. Copies of the two Stage 1 assessments have been placed in the Library.

The work undertaken to date on the Stage 1 EIAs suggests that any bias in proportionality of certain groups reflected on the NDNAD is likely to result from over-representation in the criminal justice system as a whole and is not the result of inherent bias in NDNAD processes.

The Stage 1 EIAs recommend that an analysis be undertaken of DNA subject profiles submitted to the NDNAD by police forces and police force area populations to identify whether any force areas are taking samples and submitting profiles to the NDNAD disproportionately. A working group has been set up to consider and take forward this recommendation. The NPIA is also working on a Stage 2 EIA review process, looking at potential equality issues in greater depth. The Stage 2 assessments will be available in early 2009.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the performance of *(a)* the National DNA Database and *(b)* the Independent Safeguarding Authority database. [243095]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) is a police intelligence tool which contributes to the efficiency of crime detection. It contributes to detections, eliminates the innocent from inquiries and focuses the direction of inquiries.

The use of NDNAD saves police time and builds public confidence that offenders may be detected and brought to justice.

The NDNAD provides the police matches with DNA taken from a person with DNA found at the scene of a crime. Police are now being provided with almost 3,100 matches a month. It is estimated that over the period April 1998 to March 2008, there have been over 272,000 detections in which a DNA match was available. DNA evidence will have contributed to solving many of these crimes, but it is not possible to say whether the DNA match was the key factor in solving the crime.

Further information on the effectiveness of the NDNAD is available in the latest National DNA Database Annual Report, that for 2006-07, which is available at:

http://www.npia.police.uk/en/11403.htm

We have also worked closely with the National Institute of Justice in the United States of America to produce a study on DNA, which can be found at:

http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222318.pdf

The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) maintains a database of information on cases referred by employers under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults, Protection of Children Act, and "List 99" barring arrangements, in order to provide advice to Ministers on barring decisions. Any data are held for these purposes. Additional information in respect of these referrals may be sought from the police. When the Authority is fully operational it will also obtain criminal records and other police information from the Criminal Records Bureau. It will also maintain the barred lists in respect of children and vulnerable adults required by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. No assessment of effectiveness has yet been made, but performance indicators are being developed for the ISA as a whole.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances an individual's DNA profile may be deleted from the national DNA database. [243766]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), the police have the power indefinitely to retain profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) derived from samples taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence and detained in a police station, regardless of whether they are charged or convicted.

While the decision on whether to agree to a request from an individual to have their DNA profile removed from the NDNAD lies with the chief officer of the police force which took the sample, profiles will normally be retained unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Policy on the retention of DNA and fingerprint records is being reviewed in light of the Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of S and Marper. The Government will consider their response to the Judgment in conjunction with the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers and a Government White Paper on Forensics will be published next year on proposals to implement the judgment.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to cease retaining DNA information from people not convicted of a crime. [244039]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out her initial thoughts on the European Court ruling in her speech on 16 December 2008 to the Intellect Trade Association dealing with surveillance issues.

We are carefully considering the detail of the judgment in the S and Marper case and its implications. DNA is a prime example where benefits to the criminal justice system and the rights of the individual need to be carefully balanced. That is why our approach to the European Court's judgment will be subject to wide consultation this year in a White Paper on Forensics.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to announce her response to the European Court of Human Rights' judgment in the case of S and Marper. [244520]

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on the legality of retaining the DNA records of people who have not been convicted of any crime. [245017]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out her initial thoughts on the European Court ruling in her speech on 16 December to the Intellect Trade Association dealing with surveillance issues.

We are carefully considering the detail of the Judgment in the S and Marper case and its implications. DNA is a prime example where benefits to the criminal justice system and the rights of the individual need to be carefully balanced. That is why our approach to the European Court's Judgment will be subject to wide consultation this year in a White Paper on Forensics.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in Sussex have profiles recorded on the National DNA Database. [245236]

Mr. Alan Campbell: At 16 December 2008, the number of profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) relating to persons currently aged under 16 and added by Sussex Police was 3,115. The number relating to persons currently aged under 18 (including those under 16) added by that force was 8,358.

The NDNAD does not contain any information on the place of residence of a person sampled, so the figures include residents of areas other than Sussex sampled by Sussex Police, and exclude residents of Sussex sampled by other police forces.

The number of profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. As it is possible for a profile to be loaded onto the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their

name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. At present, the average replication rate on the whole NDNAD is 13.3 per cent. However, this figure may vary between police forces.

Human Rights: Training

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to allocate officials trained in the context of human rights work to the consideration of applications for visas from human rights defenders seeking entry to the UK on official business; and if she will make a statement. [244297]

Mr. Woolas: Decisions on entry clearance applications made at UK Missions are determined by entry clearance officers who have undertaken a course of training which covers the Human Rights Act and its bearing on entry clearance decisions. All decisions are made in accordance with the Immigration Rules (HC395).

Human Trafficking: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of children illegally trafficked into the UK. [246847]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A recent Government estimate was published in the Impact Assessment for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against trafficking in Human Beings, laid before Parliament on 7 October 2008. This estimates that 360 children are trafficked each year into and within the UK.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent research she has commissioned on the links between prostitution and trafficking. [244675]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To inform the Government's Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review, the Home Office commissioned research from the child and woman abuse studies unit at London Metropolitan university which compared prostitution regimes across nine countries. This considered the impact of trafficking on the development of these regimes and the effect of each regime on levels of trafficking. We also commissioned a Rapid Evidence Assessment to look at existing research on the demand for prostitution. This considered the extent to which trafficking contributed to the demand for prostitution and the effect of different approaches to tackling demand on levels of trafficking. These reports will be published this year.

Human Trafficking: Victims

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the immigration status is of the 167 victims of human trafficking recovered during Operation Pentameter 2. [244770]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The reluctance of many victims to accept third sector support and co-operate with the authorities made accurate assessment of immigration status difficult. But we know 60 were EU nationals and five others had indefinite leave to remain in the UK. 36 adult victims are recorded as having returned home voluntarily, including some EU nationals. A further 16 adults were removed using immigration powers. Of the remainder, a number ceased to cooperate at a very early stage while others lodged applications to remain in the UK.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protection is made available to trafficked persons following the conviction of those responsible for their trafficking. [244952]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's victim protection measures are not dependent on a conviction. We currently fund the Poppy project to provide specialist support to adult victims of these crimes. Victims are provided with unconditional intensive support for four weeks, with longer-term services provided in return for co-operation with a criminal investigation. The TARA project is funded to provide similar support services in Scotland. We also offer victims support with resettlement in their home country or within the United Kingdom where eligible. A victim whose safety is seriously at risk as a result of giving evidence may be placed in a police witness protection programme. Victims can also apply for asylum and humanitarian protection where appropriate.

We have ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against the Trafficking in Human Beings which will come into force in April 2009. This will see the introduction of a 45 day reflection period where victims can consider their future options and one-year temporary resident permits, both of which can be extended in certain circumstances. Each case will have to be considered on its individual merits. The new measures are intended to compliment the asylum and humanitarian procedures and for many victims that may remain the most appropriate avenue of protection.

Hunting: Prosecutions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* charges, *(b)* prosecutions, *(c)* convictions, *(d)* cautions and *(e)* fines there have been for breaches of the Hunting Act 2004 in each police force area since its enactment. [244431]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and fined at all courts, for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act, in England and Wales, broken down by police force area from 2005 to 2007, are in table 1. Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice.

Data showing the number of offenders cautioned for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act in England and Wales, broken down by police force area from 2005 to 2007 are in table 2.

The Hunting Act came into force on 18 February 2005.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and fined at all courts, for offences under the 2004 Hunting Act, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2005[1] to 2007[2,3,4]

	Proceeded against			Found guilty			Fined		
Force	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2
Cheshire	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	2	1
Cleveland	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Derbyshire	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2
Durham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	4	—	—	3	—	—	3	—
Hampshire	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—
Humberside	—	4	8	—	—	8	—	—	7
Lancashire	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2
Lincolnshire	—	—	7	—	—	7	—	—	7
Merseyside	1	—	25	1	—	19	1	—	17
Northumbria	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
Thames Valley	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
North Wales	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
England and Wales	3	11	62	3	5	48	3	5	41

[1] The 2004 Hunting Act came into force on 18 February 2005.
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Only police force areas (PFAs) with data have been included in the table—if a PFA has not been included assume nil data.

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned[1] under the 2004 Hunting Act, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2005[2] to 2007[3,4,5]

Force	2005	2006	2007
Kent	—	—	2
Merseyside	—	—	3
North Yorkshire	—	—	1
Northumbria	1	—	1
Thames Valley	—	—	1
Total	1	0	8

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] The 2004 Hunting Act came into force on 18 February 2005.
[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] Only police force areas (PFAs) with data have been included in the table—if a PFA has not been included assume nil data.

Identity Cards: Criminal Records

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to extend the requirement for airside workers to undergo basic criminal record checks in order to have an identity card to the rest of the population; and if she will make a statement. [241082]

Meg Hillier: There are no current plans to extend the requirement to obtain an identity card that is proposed for airside workers, to all people who need a criminal record check.

The Identity Cards Act secondary legislation consultation paper, published on 21 November 2008, set out the planned roll out of identity cards under the National Identity scheme as follows:

25 November 2008—the first foreign nationals (excluding European Economic Area nationals), started to be issued with identity cards by the Home Office, UK Border Agency. This initially covers foreign nationals who apply for an extension of their stay in the United Kingdom as students or as the husbands, wives or partners of permanent residents.

Autumn 2009—the first identity cards will start to be issued to airside workers and a limited number of volunteers from the general public. These will be the first identity cards issued to British citizens and European Economic Area nationals and will be issued by the Home Office, Identity and Passport Service;

2010—Identity Cards will continue to be available on a voluntary basis, but in particular to young people in a specified area to assist them in proving their identity;

2012—Identity cards will start to be issued in high volumes to British citizens, with adults applying for passports being offered the choice of an identity card or passport or both.

Immigrants: Social Security Benefits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what entitlements to *(a)* NHS treatment, *(b)* social security benefits, *(c)* housing and *(d)* other services will be withdrawn from immigrants and other non-UK citizens by proposed legislation and measures under her Department's responsibility as set out in the Gracious Speech. [244116]

Mr. Woolas: We intend to introduce the Bill in the current session. Details will be confirmed in the Bill.

Immigration

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* London and *(c)* England applied for leave to remain in the UK outside of immigration rules in each of the last five years; and how many did not have valid leave to remain at the time of their application. [243057]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of applications made each year, over the last five years for leave to remain in the United Kingdom outside of the Immigration Rules.

It is not possible to provide extract data on the number of applicants who did not have valid leave at the time of their application.

Applications raised during each year

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
England	21,595	23,540	22,420	28,210	25,485	22,300	143,550
London	8,940	9,350	8,205	9,685	9,415	7,835	53,430
Bexley	90	115	100	95	145	110	655

Notes:
Figures are rounded to nearest five and are in respect of main applicants.
Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.
The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the time taken to deal with the application for indefinite leave to remain of the constituent of the hon. Member for Torbay (Home Office reference: B2192246). [245101]

Mr. Woolas: I wrote to the hon. Member on 22 December 2008.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason her Department *(a)* has yet to make a decision on the immigration case of Mr W. H. of Aylesbury (reference: J1019588) following the representations from his solicitors on 20 October 2006 and *(b)* was unable, in its letter to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 4 December 2008, to indicate any timescale for a decision. [245441]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has yet to make a decision in this case and was unable to give any timescale for a decision in its letter to you of 4 December because the case does not fall into one of the priorities for conclusion.

The UK Border Agency will prioritise those individuals who may pose a risk to the public and then focus on those who can more easily be removed, those receiving support and those where it is likely that a decision will be made to allow the individual to remain in the UK. All cases will be dealt with on their individual merits and in accordance with these priorities.

Every effort is being made to deal with all cases as efficiently as possible and your constituent will be contacted via his representative as soon as a decision has been made on his case.

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were awaiting determination in respect of applications for indefinite leave to remain in postal areas *(a)* PE1, *(b)* PE2, *(c)* PE3 and *(d)* PE4 in each quarter since May 2005; and if she will make a statement. [246149]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* This information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained at only disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2214W, on anti-semitism, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Southend West; and if she will make a statement. [242694]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I wrote to the hon. Member for Southend West on 10 December 2008.

Migration Advisory Committee

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed in organising the Migration Advisory Committee; and what estimate she has made of the Committee's running costs in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245691]

Mr. Woolas: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) itself consists of five members and two ex-officio members. The MAC is supported by a secretariat of 10 staff, nine of which are full-time and one part-time.

The MAC was awarded funding of £1.5 million for 2008-09, of which £670,000 was allocated for pay and allowances for committee and secretariat, and the majority of the remainder for research. The MAC's budget is set by the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 and we are unable to provide this information until these plans have been finalised and agreed by the UK Border Agency Board.

National Identity Register

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* methodologies and *(b)* technology she plans to specify to secure the accuracy of amendments to the National Identity Register; and what accuracy rate is to be specified. [242246]

Meg Hillier: While there may be a need to make some corrections to the National Identity Register if information is found to have been recorded incorrectly, the majority of amendments will be at the request of the individual concerned and based on information that they have provided in relation to changes in their identity details, such as changes of name or address.

It is intended that secure remote authentication and biometric verification systems will be in place to verify an individual's identity when an amendment is requested by an individual to his or her record on the National Identity Register. The Identity and Passport Service is in the process of procuring the systems that will enable the establishment of this service and the details and accuracy of these systems will depend on the final design proposed by the successful bidder.

National Retail Crime Steering Group

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the National Retail Crime Steering Group has met. [246854]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Retail Crime Steering Group was set up last year, following meetings between the then Director-General of the British Retail Consortium and my hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Coaker), to discuss the crime issues affecting the retail sector. The Group met for the first time on 24 July 2007, and has since met on 27 Feb 2008, and 12 November 2008. The Group meets twice a year.

Nurses: Zimbabwe

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued to *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from Zimbabwe since 1 January 2008. [244300]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides information on work permits issued to Zimbabwean nationals. The figures relate to work permit applications granted both at initial consideration stage and those successful on review, for the period 1 January 2008 to 30 November 2008.

Caveats:

The term 'work permit application' includes all work permit application types—including work permit extensions, change of employment and technical changes to existing work permits—and therefore does not equate to the number of individuals to whom permits were issued.

The term doctors/nurses refers to the occupation description containing the word 'nurse' or 'doctor'; and excludes persons admitted under the Highly Skilled Migrant programme or the points-based system.

These figures include applications made both in and out of country.

Nationality	*Doctor*	*Nurses*	*Total*
Zimbabwe	10	1,100	1,110
Total	10	1,100	1,110

Note:
Figures are rounded to nearest 5. Because of rounding figures may not add up to totals shown.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Offensive Weapons

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people aged *(a)* 16 and under, *(b)* between 17 and 18, *(c)* between 18 and 21 and (d) 21 years were arrested for carrying firearms in (i) Stockport Metropolitan Borough, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) the North West in each of the last five years; [246072]

(2) how many people aged *(a)* 16 and under, *(b)* between 17 and 18, *(c)* between 18 and 21 and *(d)* 21 years were arrested for carrying knives in (i) Stockport Metropolitan Borough, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) the North West in each of the last five years. [246073]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The main arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and section and 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 police have the power of stop and search for offensive weapons and firearms. Information on the number of arrests as a result of the use of these powers for possession of firearms and offensive weapons (which includes knives) is provided in the following table.

The figures reported to the Home Office on section 1 of PACE cannot separately identify searches for knives from the category of 'offensive weapons' reported to the Home Office. Additionally, the figures presented on arrests as a result of searches under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 include arrests for possession of firearms, knives and other offensive weapons, but cannot separately identify the article found. Figures for arrests as a result of stops and searches do not identify the age of offenders.

The data reported to the Home Office are at police force area level only therefore information on arrests in Stockport metropolitan borough is not available.

Arrests as a result of searches of persons or vehicles under selected sections of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and other legislation, selected areas by reason for arrest

Area1 reason for search	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Stops and searches under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984					
Firearms					
Greater Manchester	59	67	90	144	123
North West Region	125	134	196	237	236
Offensive weapons					
Greater Manchester	454	380	487	440	502
North West Region	1,112	987	1,309	1,253	1,675
Stops and searches in anticipation of violence under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994[1]					
Offensive weapons					
Greater Manchester	37	37	36	4	9
North West Region	76	68	49	56	55

[1] Data on searches under this legislation reported to the Home Office includes all offensive weapons and dangerous instruments but does not separately identify the article that was found.

Offensive Weapons: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to address gun and knife crime in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [245849]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are fully committed to tackling gun and knife crime through responsive policing, tough powers and funding for prevention projects. We published a Practical Guide on tackling gangs for local partners and a guide to parents to help prevent their child getting involved in gangs.

In summer 2008, we launched a £3 million three-year national anti-knife crime campaign aimed at mothers and young people, and have extended the expectation to prosecute nationally. A significantly higher percentage of those who get caught carrying a knife are being sent to prison, and a significantly higher percentage are getting more intensive community payback.

The Government's new £100 million Youth Crime Action plan launched on 15 June includes new measures which supports work to tackle knives, reflecting a triple-track approach of tough enforcement, intensive support and better prevention.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 823W, on Ministers: official residences, if she will place in the Library a copy of the home information pack for the property at South Eaton Place; how much the pack cost; and whether a home condition report was purchased as part of the pack. [245930]

Mr. Woolas: A copy of the pack was placed in the Library on 11 December 2008. Preparation of the pack incurred £298.00 plus VAT in legal fees and £309.00 in statutory disbursements. The fee for the energy performance certificate is still to be invoiced but it is an estimated £100 plus VAT. There was no requirement for a home condition report.

Police Cautions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* robbery, *(d)* burglary, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage and *(h)* drugs offences police cautions were given in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such cases were first offences. [244428]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of offenders cautioned for selected offence groups in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007, are in the following table.

It is not possible to identify, from the information on cautions reported to the Ministry of Justice, how many of these cautions were for first offences.

Number of offenders[1] cautioned[2] for Violence Against the Person, Sexual Offences, Burglary, Robbery, Theft and Handling Stolen Goods, Fraud and Forgery, Criminal Damage and Drug Offences, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[3,4]

Offence type	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Violence against the person	28,760	36,610	51,020	57,273	52,335
Sexual offences	1,359	1,553	1,761	1,922	1,966
Burglary	5,568	5,604	6,451	7,687	6,972
Robbery	422	451	622	712	614
Theft and handling stolen goods	54,466	61,943	67,619	72,369	72,790
Fraud and forgery	5,484	6,033	6,936	8,024	8,587
Criminal damage	3,726	5,495	7,246	9,018	8,813
Drug offences	45,706	32,620	34,390	37,426	43,050
Total	145,491	150,309	176,045	194,431	195,127

[1] Includes other offenders i.e. companies, public bodies etc.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
E and A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Police: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that information kept by Essex Police is *(a)* accurate and up-to-date and *(b)* kept securely; what recent discussions she has had with the Chief Constable of Essex Police on this; and if she will make a statement. [244874]

Mr. Coaker: These issues are a matter for the Essex police authority.

Police: ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department *(a)* spent on and *(b)* committed to the police portal; why the police portal was withdrawn; what plans she has to introduce a secure online reporting system for use by police forces; and if she will make a statement. [246855]

Mr. Coaker: The police portal provided a national communications channel for the police service. It was procured in January 2001 and the total annual cost of running this service was just under £2 million per annum.

There is no budget for the portal service in 2008-09 or 2009-10 and no staff are currently employed to maintain this website. This is because the police portal service ceased on 31 March 2007 when the contract with the service provider expired.

Although good use was made of the police portal services in some areas, the running costs increased in 2007-08 as a result of technical difficulties in the delivery of the replacement portal service. The Association of Chief Police Officers took the view that there was insufficient demand for this service to justify these increased costs.

There are no plans to reinstate the police portal at the current time, but a number of police forces have introduced online reporting facilities on their existing websites.

Police: Legal Advice

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is given to police on the application of *(a)* section 62 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 and *(b)* Articles 10 and 11 of the Human Rights Act 1998. [245032]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister issued joint guidance on effective use of enforcement powers to deal with unauthorised encampments in February 2006, including the application of section 62 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

The Human Rights Act is embedded throughout all aspects of training and guidance given to police officers.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners held under immigration detention powers were held in *(a)* prison and *(b)* the immigration detention estate as at 1 December 2008. [245783]

Mr. Woolas: On 1 December 2008 there were 526 ex-foreign national prisoners held in prison and 1,175 held in the UK Border Agency's detention estate.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners held under immigration powers in the immigration detention estate on 1 December 2008 had been given *(a)* a custodial sentence of more than four years, *(b)* a conviction for importation of class A drugs, *(c)* a conviction for a serious violent offence and *(d)* a conviction for a sexual offence that required them to be placed on the Sex Offender Register. [245784]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally collated and can be obtained only by conducting checks on each foreign national prisoner held in detention under immigration powers using the Police National Computer in order to identify the full range of offences each individual may have been convicted of.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has written to the Home Affairs Select Committee on a regular basis in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information available. In her most recent letter of 8 December she advised the Committee that the agency had removed over 1,400 drug offenders, 30 killers, 12 attempted killers and more than 230 sex offenders. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national prisoners with *(a)* custodial sentences of more than four years, *(b)* a conviction for importation of class A drugs, *(c)* a conviction for a serious violent offence and *(d)* a conviction for a sexual offence that required them to be placed on the Sex Offender Register have been granted immigration bail in each of the last five years; [245785]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners have been released into the community directly from Asylum and Immigration Tribunal hearings in each of the last five years; [245786]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners held under immigration detention powers have been granted bail in each of the last 10 years. [245792]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to the numbers of foreign national prisoners subject to deportation action who have completed their custodial sentence and been released on bail is not centrally collated at present. In order to provide the information requested it would be necessary to examine individual case files at disproportionate cost.

When a foreign criminal who is subject to deportation action is granted bail by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and it is believed that the individual presents a risk of harm to the public, the UK Border Agency will always request that the tribunal impose the most robust restrictions possible in order to minimise the likelihood that the individual will reoffend.

The agency will continue to pursue deportation action against such individuals and is on track to not only meet but exceed its target of deportation or removing 5,000 foreign criminals in 2008.

Prostitution

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she intends to make changes to the legal status of brothels. [244764]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We do not intend to make changes to the legal status of brothels.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration her Department has given to research on the likely effects of criminalising prostitution in preparing the Crime and Policing Bill. [244771]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We do not intend to criminalise prostitution and have not considered the likely effects of doing so. The Government's 'Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review' considered the most effective way of reducing the demand for prostitution and as a result of its findings we intend to include the offence of paying for sexual services of a prostitute controlled for gain in the forthcoming Policing and Crime Bill.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average age of those first entering into prostitution. [244931]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government's consultation paper on prostitution, Paying the Price, provides a summary of research on the age of first involvement in prostitution. This paper is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/paying_the_price.pdf?view=Binary.

Refugee Integration and Employment Service

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much she expects the Refugee Integration and Employment Service will cost to run in 2008-09 and in each of the following two years; how many staff are engaged in running the service; how many will be so engaged in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [245684]

Mr. Woolas: The cost of the Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES) is volume-driven and take-up is voluntary therefore we are unable to provide an exact indication of what it may cost in this and subsequent financial years. However, we do not believe that the cost will exceed £10 million per annum. As of the end of November 2008 approximately £300,000 had been paid to providers by UKBA during 2008-09.

RIES is delivered through regional contracts by external organisations who are paid on a price per head basis to deliver the service therefore we do not have records of the number of staff providing the service. This is a matter for the service providers themselves.

Repatriation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 318-19W, on deportation, how her Department establishes that a

person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities; and how many people so recorded subsequently have been found to have been in the United Kingdom illegally in each of the last five years. [243491]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]*: The Department establishes that a person has left the UK without informing the immigration authorities via:

Manual embarkation operations at UK ports

Data matching visa applications made at British Missions overseas

Data matching incoming/departing passenger and flight data recorded under the e-Borders programme (Semaphore)

The information requested on how many people have subsequently been found to have been in the UK illegally in each of the last five years could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Risk Analysis UK

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use her Department has made of *(a)* private investigators and *(b)* Risk Analysis UK Ltd since May 2005. [244795]

Mr. Woolas: From best available records the Home Department inclusive of its Agencies has had no contracts with private investigators or with Risk Analysis UK Ltd since May 2005.

Security Guards: Licensing

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Security Investment Authority will conduct its cost-benefit assessment on the potential requirement for licence holders to provide evidence that they have kept their competency up-to-date when applying for a renewal of their licence. [245944]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is working on an assessment of the costs and benefits of the introduction of a requirement for licence holders, including door supervisors, to provide evidence that they have kept their competency up to date, when applying for licence renewal. If it is decided that this proposal merits further development, a public consultation would be undertaken before any amendments are made to the SIA's competency framework for the issue of licences.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Standards

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance targets have been set by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in respect of its asset recovery function following recommendation (b) of the National Audit Office report on the Assets Recovery Agency. [245950]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The performance targets set for 2008-09 in relation to asset recovery functions transferred from the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious Organised Crime Agency are to recover £16 million of assets in civil recovery cases and enforce £4 million of confiscation orders from ARA legacy criminal cases.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Serious and Organised Crime Agency agreed to adopt from other law enforcement agencies for investigation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the first six months of this financial year. [243620]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The majority of the Serious Organised Crime Agency's operational activity falls within the scope of the United Kingdom Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy, and is planned and executed in collaboration with one or more partner agency, including other law enforcement agencies from the UK and overseas. In addition to this work within the Control Strategy, SOCA provides a range of support activities for partners, principally UK law enforcement agencies, some routinely and others on request. While all of SOCA's operational work is centrally tasked, there is no single referral and adoption system.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Serious and Organised Crime Agency completed in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the first six months of 2008-09; what the value of the assets recovered in those cases was; how many of those cases related to work inherited from the Assets Recovery Agency; and what the value of assets recovered in such inherited cases was. [243623]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency closed 75 operations and projects in the first six months of this financial year. SOCA operational activity is often multi-faceted with concurrent activity across the UK and internationally, these figures are therefore not available on a regional basis.

Data relating to cases transferred from the Assets Recovery Agency to SOCA are not collated in the form requested.

Figures relating to SOCA's UK-wide performance for the financial year 2008-09, including performance on asset recovery, will be included in SOCA's Annual Report for 2008-09, when published.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how long on average it took for the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to decide whether to adopt cases referred to it in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* nationwide in the first six months of 2008-09; [243624]

(2) what estimate she has made of the value of assets in those cases which the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has declined to adopt in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the first six months of 2008-09; [243625]

(3) how many of the cases referred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency the agency declined to adopt in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* nationwide in the first six months of this financial year; and what the reasons were for declining in each case. [243626]

Mr. Alan Campbell: While the Serious Organised Crime Agency does not operate a formal referral and adoption system with all its law enforcement counterparts

SOCA will normally make decisions on initiating new activity within two weeks of a proposal. There are other arrangements in place where time critical decisions are required. To make any comment on the reasons for not progressing proposals may prejudice the outcome of any subsequent investigation. SOCA does not collate information on estimated values of assets in declined cases.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many criminal investigations the Serious and Organised Crime Agency inherited from its predecessor organisations; [243792]

(2) in how many of the cases inherited by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency upon its establishment prosecutions had already been initiated; [243793]

(3) in how many cases inherited by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in which prosecutions had been initiated before SOCA adopted the case those prosecutions proceedings have now been completed. [243796]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under the Transfer Scheme, SOCA inherited 162 ongoing operations and projects from its predecessor agencies on 1 April 2006 encompassing a range of UK and international civil and criminal investigative responses. An additional 74 operations involving criminal prosecutions were already at court on 1 April 2006 and at least 65 of these have now been completed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the cases which the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) inherited from other law enforcement agencies in which prosecution proceedings had been initiated prior to SOCA's adoption of the case relate to investigations for the purpose of criminal confiscation; [243794]

(2) what estimate she has made of the value of assets restrained in those cases which the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) inherited from other law enforcement agencies and in which prosecutions proceedings had been initiated before SOCA adopted the case; [243795]

(3) in how many cases inherited from other law enforcement agencies by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in which prosecution proceedings had been initiated before SOCA adopted the case criminal confiscation orders have been granted; [243797]

(4) how much money has been recovered to date by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) from cases it inherited from other law enforcement agencies in which prosecutions had been initiated before SOCA adopted the case; and what the value of criminal confiscation orders issued in relation to such cases is; [243798]

(5) in how many of the cases inherited by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in which prosecutions had been initiated previously assets had been restrained before adoption by SOCA. [244006]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) does not collate this level of detail regarding cases or operations inherited from precursor agencies, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files).

Details relating to SOCA performance in the first two years of its operation, including results contributing to asset recovery targets, are reported on in the SOCA annual reports for 2006-07 and 2007-08. Figures relating to SOCA's performance for the financial year 2008-09 are subject to internal validation and will be included in SOCA's annual report for 2008-09, when published.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* financial investigators and *(b)* lawyers were employed by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency solely on assets recovery work in (i) the UK and (ii) Northern Ireland on 30 September 2008. [243922]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 30 September, 2008, the Serious Organised Crime Agency employed 230 financial investigators working in the UK on tackling criminal finances and profits, including through asset recovery, and 22 lawyers in the UK who were dedicated to civil asset recovery work. SOCA is a UK-wide agency and as such staff from across the organisation work on particular pieces of activity.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* financial investigators and *(b)* lawyers devoted to criminal confiscation work were employed in the Serious and Organised Crime Agency on 31 March 2008. [243923]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 31 March 2008, the Serious Organised Crime Agency employed 181 financial investigators on tackling criminal finances and profits, including through asset recovery. Their work covered both criminal confiscation work and money-laundering investigations.

On 31 March 2008, seven SOCA lawyers were involved in criminal investigations, although none was dedicated to this. SOCA lawyers were not involved in criminal confiscation work at this time.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets relating to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland have been set for the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2008-09 in terms of (i) the number of criminal confiscation cases initiated, (ii) the number of those cases in which criminal assets will be restrained, (iii) the projected value of those assets, (iv) the number of cases in which action to recover assets by civil recovery or taxation is planned to be initiated and (v) the projected value of assets to be restrained through such actions; and what progress has been made against those targets to date. [243932]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has set the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) targets for 2008-09 of:

£6 million cash forfeited;

£46 million confiscation, including £4 million of orders enforced from criminal casework inherited from ARA;

£16 million civil recovery.

SOCA is a UK-wide agency and no Northern Ireland-specific targets have been set for SOCA by the Home Office.

The Organised Crime Task Force has set a Northern Ireland target for 2008-09 of total criminal assets recovered (net of costs) in the range of £6.2 million to £10.0 million. SOCA will contribute to the achievement of this target through its work in the region.

Figures for SOCA's UK-wide performance on asset recovery for the financial year 2008-09 are still subject to internal validation and will be included in its annual report for 2008-09, when published.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were transferred by the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 31 March 2008 in which proceedings for civil recovery or taxation had been initiated in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK; what the estimated value of the assets restrained in those cases was; how many of those cases related to (i) oils and (ii) tobacco fraud; and what the value of assets was in (A) oil and (B) tobacco fraud cases so transferred. [243841]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data relating to the transfer of cases over from the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) were not collated to this level of detail, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. 147 civil recovery operations and 38 tax operations were opened as a result of the transfer of cases from ARA to SOCA. Further relevant information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases were transferred by the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 31 March 2008 in which an action or investigation for criminal confiscation of assets had been initiated *(a)* in Northern Ireland and *(b)* in the UK; what the estimated value of the assets restrained in those cases was; in how many such investigations SOCA has obtained a confiscation order; and what the value of assets affected by such order is. [243843]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data relating to the transfer of cases from the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) to SOCA were not collated to this level of detail, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. 29 criminal confiscation operations were opened as a result of the transfer of cases from ARA. Some operations may include multiple ARA cases relating to the same subject. Further relevant information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files).

Figures for SOCA's UK-wide performance on asset recovery for the financial year 2008-09 are subject to internal validation and will be included in its annual report for 2008-09, when published.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency for its work on assets recovery in Northern Ireland is in 2008-09. [243921]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SOCA is a UK-wide organisation and does not set budgets on a regional basis. No separate budget, therefore, exists for asset recovery in Northern Ireland.

Stop and Search

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many stop-and-searches were carried out under *(a)* section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and *(b)* section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 on the Hoo Peninsula in Kent between 30 July and 14 August 2008; [244294]

(2) how many stop-and-searches were carried out under *(a)* section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and *(b)* section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in Deansgate Golf Course Car Park in Kent between 30 July and 14 August 2008. [244295]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

Data on arrests reported to the Home Office are not broken down below police force area level.

Surveillance: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1374W, on surveillance: local authorities, how many of the determinations made in relation to the 554 complaints resulted in the complaint being upheld *(a)* wholly and *(b)* in part. [245935]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of complaints made and upheld is given in the published annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligences Services Commissioner. These published reports show that since 2005 the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has made a determination in favour of two complainants who lodged a joint complaint.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff at the UK Border Agency are engaged in delivering the Agency's third strategic objective; where such staff are based; and what forecast she has made of the costs that will be incurred by the Agency in working towards this objective in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245579]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA objective 3 "We will implement fast and fair decisions" is substantially delivered by the Immigration Group within UKBA. It is not possible to provide the costs of delivering this objective in isolation

as the group also contributes significantly to the other strategic objectives of the agency. The total number of staff employed within the group at the end of November 2008 was 10,200 and these are based throughout the UK.

Forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not yet available. UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecast for 2009-10 and 2010-11 and we are unable to provide this information until these plans have been finalised by the UKBA Board.

The operating cost budget for the financial year 2008-09 is as follows:

Expenditure	*Budget 2008-09 (£ million)*
Pay	320
Staff related costs	10
Other operating costs	50
Total	380

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are responsible for managing the Gateway resettlement programme; what estimate she has made of the cost of the Gateway project in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and if she will make a statement. [245685]

Mr. Woolas: 17.5 FTE UK Border Agency staff are responsible for managing the Gateway Protection Programme.

As of November 2008, UKBA has spent approximately £3.7 million on the project during 2008-09. The budget for 2008-09 stands at £9.48 million. This programme is currently match-funded under the European Refugee Fund 2008.

UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 and we are unable to provide this information until these plans have been finalised and agreed by the UKBA Board.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are responsible for *(a)* managing citizenship applications and *(b)* developing citizenship policy; and what estimate she has made of the cost of employing these staff in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [245686]

Mr. Woolas: The Nationality Group deals with citizenship applications and is based in Liverpool, north-west region.

(a) The number of staff responsible for managing citizenship applications are currently the full-time equivalent of 333.68 (as at 30 November).

(b) The number of staff responsible for developing citizenship policy is six, and they are not included in the number above.

(c) The estimated costs of employing these staff in 2008.09 are £6.74 million. For 2009-10 and 2010-11 UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for these years and is therefore unable to provide this information until these plans have been finalised and agreed by the UKBA Board.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are employed in the Case Resolution Directorate; and what estimate she has made of the Directorate's running costs in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245687]

Mr. Woolas: The Case Resolution Directorate currently employs 940 staff at a cost in 2008-09 of £28.2 million. Estimates of running costs for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 are not available because the UK Border Agency is currently finalising its business plan for next year.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are employed in processing asylum applications; and what estimate she has made of the costs of employing these staff in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245688]

Mr. Woolas: There are currently 354 full-time equivalent case owners who are responsible for the end to end processing of new asylum applications in regional teams. An additional 173 full-time equivalent presenting officers are involved in asylum appeals. These figures do not include staff in screening units, or other staff connected with elements of asylum processing such as support team staff, managers, senior caseworkers, immigration officers and those working in the non-suspensive appeal process. They also exclude staff working in the Case Resolution Directorate, for which a separate answer has been prepared.

We do not collate cost information relating to asylum process staff on the level required. UKBA is currently reviewing plans and forecasts for 2009-10 and 2010-11 for consideration by the UK Border Agency Board.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK Border Agency staff are involved in running the Family Naturalisation Process; and what estimate she has made of the running costs of the programme in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245689]

Mr. Woolas: The British Nationality Act makes provision for the acquisition of British citizenship through naturalisation or registration. All applications for British citizenship are considered by the UKBA Nationality Group and there is no separate process for naturalising families.

Workers Registration Scheme: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have registered under the workers registration scheme in each local authority area in the North East. [246365]

Mr. Woolas: The Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) publish the information requested on the local government website:

www.lga.gov.uk

and the following page:

www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1095225.

Local Government Association Analysis and Research (LGAAR) has negotiated and secured access to local authority level WRS data from the UK Border Agency. Access to the local authority data is restricted to local authorities and other Government users who register on this site with a '.gov.uk' email address.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 14 January 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246670]

Ann McKechin: The number of aeroplane journeys undertaken by Scotland Office Ministers and officials, in the course of their duties, is shown in the following table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ministers	19	9	14	22.5
Officials	314.5	291	294	249.5
Total	333.5	300	308	272

A return journey is classed as one journey; if, for example, the outward leg of a journey is undertaken by air and the return by train, this is shown as half a journey. Figures are not available for years prior to 2004-05.

Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244601]

Ann McKechin: The Government's Delivery Plan for "Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate", published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives Departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the Delivery Plan on a six-monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent maintaining its website in each of the last five years. [245495]

Ann McKechin: Figures are only available for the period during which the current Scotland Office website has been in existence. The figure for 2004-05 includes the initial cost of designing and building the site.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2004-05	24,718
2005-06	4,964
2006-07	840
2007-08	2,990

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Paid Posts

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 201W, on paid posts, for what reason the posts of Secretary to the Church Commissioners and Chief Financial Officer are reserved for practising Christians. [247500]

Sir Stuart Bell: Both post holders have particular responsibilities for maintaining the Christian ethos of their organisations as well as representing the Church to others in society. Current discrimination legislation allows religious organisations to restrict appointment to Christians or Anglicans in those circumstances.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 201W, on paid posts, whether the post of *(a)* Secretary to the Church Commissioners and *(b)* Chief Financial Officer could be filled by a practising Roman Catholic. [247501]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Chief Financial Officer has a responsibility to help maintain the Christian ethos of the National Church Institutions and this post could be filled by a Roman Catholic or a person from any other Christian denomination.

The Secretary to the Church Commissioners has a particular responsibility for representing the Church of England and maintaining its ethos within the Commissioners and, as such, appointments have been restricted to Anglicans in the past.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the fuel used at Drax power station was *(a)* tar sands, *(b)* shale and *(c)* other oils in the last period for which figures are available. [247043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect fuel usage data at this level of detail. Furthermore, the Department has given an undertaking that any fuel usage data that is collected from individual generators is used only for the purpose of producing aggregate statistics—company level data may be commercially sensitive and thus cannot be released.

Mining: Horses

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many ponies are working in mining enterprises. [247512]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Certain coal mining museums may keep ponies to illustrate their former role, but they are not employed in any underground capacity, nor are any ponies known to be working in other coal mining enterprises.

Renewable Energy: Expenditure

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on the development of *(a)* renewable fuels and *(b)* clean engines in the last three years. [245868]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The Department's expenditure in these areas falls to the Research Councils and the Technology Strategy Board.

Research Councils' total expenditure on bioenergy (including biofuels and biomass) and clean engines was £8.45 million and £1.65 million respectively for the years 2005-08.

Technology Strategy Board's total expenditure on collaborative R and D projects in the areas of bioenergy and clean engines was £2.98 million and £1.64 million respectively for the years 2005-08.

Warm Front Scheme

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many claims for assistance made through the Warm Front scheme are outstanding. [246876]

Joan Ruddock: The current number of applications outstanding is 106,179. Each of these applications are at very different stages and will be eligible for a range of measures. Some customers are awaiting survey, others are awaiting work to be installed and others have an outstanding contribution to make to the cost of the work.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public expenditure was incurred in respect of *(a)* Greatrex Associates, *(b)* Paul Sullivan Snooker and Pool, *(c)* Coffee Republic, *(d)* Bristol and District Retirement Council, *(e)* Cherubs Floral Design Ltd. and *(f)* Total Horsemanship Ltd in 2007-08; and for what purpose in each case. [240843]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 8 December 2008]:* From information held centrally, the core-Department's financial system records the following expenditure incurred with the businesses listed:

Name	*Purpose*	*Expenditure (£)*
Greatrex Associates	Executive Management Coaching	2000.00
Paul Sullivan Snooker and Pool	—	0
Coffee Republic	Sandwich Lunch at Conference	97.88
Bristol and District Retirement Council	Retirement Courses	440.00
Cherubs Floral Design Ltd	Flowers for Reception, Innovation Centre, Reading	1850.85
Total Horsemanship Ltd	Natural Horsemanship Course	240.00

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local authorities have published schedules of works for maintenance of *(a)* rural rivers and *(b)* coastal areas at risk of flooding; and when each such schedule was published. [246110]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not currently collate information published by local authorities regarding the maintenance of river and coastal defences.

The Pitt review recommended that schedules should be published for each local authority area. The Government support this recommendation and the Environment Agency will publish information on planned maintenance, after consulting regional flood defence committees and other local stakeholders, from 2009-10.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248246]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, no members of staff have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones in each year since 1997.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people *(a)* under and *(b)* over 16 years who participated in at least one active sport in the last four weeks in each year for which figures are available. [247575]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

In those households containing at least one child aged 11 to 15, an interview is also conducted with a randomly selected child.

The following tables show the percentage and number of children and adults who participated in active sport in the past four weeks.

Table 1: Participation in active sport by children aged 11-15

	Percentage	Population (Thousand)
2006	95	3,030
2007	95	2,980

Note:
Fieldwork for the child element began in January 2006 and runs on a January to December cycle.

Table 2: Participation in active sport by adults aged 16 and over

	Percentage	Population (Thousand)
2005-06	54	21,330
2006-07	53	21,310
2007-08	54	22,190

Note:
Fieldwork for the main adult survey began in July 2005 and runs on a July to June cycle.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House what expert advisers have been commissioned by her Office since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246960]

Chris Bryant: Since May 2007 there have been no expert advisers commissioned by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House. Information prior to 2007 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246961]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is not held centrally and to compile a list would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department publishes on its website details of appointments to the public bodies which it sponsors.

Since 2003, the Government have published an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102W.

Luxembourg Rail Protocol

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* content of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol to the 2001 Cape Town Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment; and if he will make a statement. [247041]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has assessed the Rail Protocol to the 2001 Cape Town Convention on International Interests on Mobile Equipment, including undertaking both formal and informal consultations of the UK's principal rolling stock companies (ROSCOs) and rail industry. We have concluded that there is no advantage to the UK in ratifying the Protocol.

Park and Ride Schemes: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department plans to give to Middlesbrough's proposed park and ride facility; and if he will make a statement. [247950]

Paul Clark: The Middlesbrough Local Transport Plan (LTP2) contains aspirations to introduce park and ride facilities. The Department for Transport is making £5.46 million available to Middlesbrough over the three financial years, 2008-11, through their LTP2 integrated transport block allocation. It is for Middlesbrough to determine how best to use this capital funding to deliver the stated outcomes of its plan.

There are also proposals to improve heavy rail services in the Tees Valley through the Tees Valley Metro project. The provision of a new station at Nunthorpe Parkway with associated car parking is an element of this package. The Department is committed to working with the Tees Valley Metro promoters to help them to develop their business case and I look forward to seeing the final document in due course. Funding for part or all of these proposals will need to be identified in the Regional Funding Advice (RFA2) transport investment programme for the North East. In this respect, the RFA2 response from the North East Region is to be submitted to Government at the end of February.

Railways: Mobile Phones

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to restrict mobile telephone signal provision to some or all carriages on rail services. [248135]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not micro-manage train franchises. The use of mobile phones on trains is a matter for the individual train operating companies, some of whom have placed restrictions on use by designating 'quiet coaches'.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Taleban and *(b)* non-Afghan fighters have been killed by (i) UK and (ii) other NATO forces in Afghanistan since 2003. [247147]

Mr. Hutton: I have nothing to add to the answer my predecessor gave on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 832W, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) and on 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 423W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey).

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [248118]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 75W, to the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone).

Colombia: Drugs

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent in providing counter-narcotics assistance to members of the Colombian armed forces in each year since 2000. [247146]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We do not divulge the details of our counter-narcotics work in Colombia, including costs, because of the risk to the people concerned. The parliamentary ombudsman has upheld this approach.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department's working group on sustainable catering procurement objectives has made; what recommendations it has made; and if he will make a statement. [246136]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The original working group, which looked at a range of facilities management services, reported in July 2008, but did not make any specific recommendations in respect of sustainable catering.

The Defence Food Services Integrated Project Team has established a separate sustainability working group to look specifically at sustainable catering procurement.

Achievements to date include reducing the overall carbon footprint through reductions in storage and transport of ration packs and by amending the frequency of deliveries and routes to military establishments. The Defence Food Services Integrated Project Team has also introduced a range of ethically traded products and increased the proportion of food it sources from UK suppliers; initiatives are under way to increase this further. The team has also held a sustainability launch event which aimed to give small and medium suppliers the ability to improve their own environmental management.

Departmental Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's *(a)* pre Main Gate and *(b)* post Main Gate (i) category A, (ii) category B and (iii) category C procurement projects were as at 31 March in each year since 2002. [245124]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Details of the Department's pre Main Gate and post Main Gate category A, B and C equipment procurement projects at 31 March 2002, 2003 and 2004 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I will place a list of the Department's category A, B and C post Initial Gate Pre Main Gate and post Main Gate pre In Service Date equipment procurement projects for years ending 31 March 2005 to 2008 in the Library of the House.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the deployment of armed forces to *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan has cost in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) each year since 2003-04; and what projection he has made of the cost in 2009-10. [246932]

Mr. Hutton: The audited net additional cost to the MOD for the cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are set out as follows:

Iraq

					£ million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Resource Costs	1,051	747	798	787	1,055
Capital Costs	260	163	160	169	402
Total	1,311	910	958	956	1,457

Afghanistan

					£ million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Resource Costs	36	58	148	560	1,071
Capital Costs	10	9	51	178	433
Total	46	67	199	738	1,504

The net additional cost of operations is volatile. Nevertheless, our current forecast of costs in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008-09 are set out in our winter supplementary estimates as follows:

Iraq, 2008-09

	£ million
Resource Costs	1,141
Capital Costs	256
Total	1,379

Afghanistan, 2008-09

	£ million
Resource Costs	1,511
Capital Costs	807
Total	2,318

Our final estimate for 2008-09 will be set out in the spring supplementary estimates. Our forecast costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan for 2009-10 will be published in the main estimates in spring 2009.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what time scale his Department has set for the transfer of the Merlin helicopter from operations in Iraq to Afghanistan. [247443]

Mr. Hutton: In line with the time scales set out in the Prime Minister's statement on Iraq on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1233-35, the Merlin Battlefield Helicopter Force will remain fully committed to supporting UK forces in Iraq until circumstances allow for its withdrawal. We are already doing all we can to ensure a swift transition of the Merlin Force to Afghanistan, including the procurement of necessary equipment modifications for operations there. Nevertheless, we envisage a short period of around four months for the force to prepare for operations in Afghanistan after extraction from Iraq.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel in each service he expects to remain in Iraq following the completion of Operation Archive. [244623]

Mr. Hutton: As the Prime Minister set out on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1233-35, we will complete our remaining military tasks in Iraq by 31 May 2009 and move to a normal bilateral defence relationship. The subsequent withdrawal of our forces will be complete by 31 July. As part of the future relationship, the Government of Iraq have indicated that they would like to continue to receive military training and education from the UK. We will shortly begin discussions to establish the precise scope of this training and education, which will inform the number and breakdown by service of any UK service personnel in Iraq after 31 July. Our current assumption is that this activity would involve around 400 UK service personnel.

Operation Archive is not concerned with the overall withdrawal of UK forces by 31 July 2009. Rather, it is the name given to the periodic removal from Iraq of equipment no longer required by UK forces.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Deprived Communities

7. **Mr. McCartney:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the results of his Department's recent research on levels of aspiration in deprived communities; and if he will make a statement. [246518]

Mr. Byrne: The Aspirations research, published jointly by the Social Exclusion Taskforce, DCSF and CLG in December 2008, is highly significant and directly informs the new Inspiring Communities programme announced in the New Opportunities White Paper yesterday.

Aspirations have an important influence on young people's educational attainment. This research found that young people in some deprived areas are less likely to develop high aspirations. These areas often feature close-knit social networks; stable populations and isolation from diverse economic opportunities. Government have made great progress in deprived areas but pessimistic attitudes can be formed over generations and are hard to shift.

The Government are investing £10.1 million in a new Inspiring Communities campaign, bringing together local businesses, schools, parents and the wider community to find innovative ways to inspire young people and tackle attitudinal barriers.

Official Statistics

8. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the procedures governing the release or publication of official statistics by civil servants, Government special advisers and Ministers. [246519]

Kevin Brennan: The Government consulted on new rules for pre-release access to statistics in their final form early last year. It introduced secondary legislation into Parliament in the summer and following debate in both Houses the new rules came into force on 1 December. These rules substantially improve the procedures governing the release of official statistics.

Social Mobility and Economic Growth

9. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effects of the Government's policies on social mobility and economic growth. [246520]

Mr. Byrne: The recently published "Getting on, getting ahead" White Paper demonstrated that while social mobility did not increase in the eighties and early nineties, new evidence suggests this might be beginning to change.

The latest academic research shows there are encouraging signs, with educational results becoming less dependent on a person's social background, more young people from low income backgrounds going to university and evidence that mobility in work is starting to rise.

The "New Opportunities" White Paper sets out how the Government will continue to address the key drivers of social mobility.

Third Sector

10. **Mr. Carswell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government policies designed to build capacity in the third sector. [246521]

Kevin Brennan: The Government invest in building the capacity of the third sector through Capacitybuilders and Futurebuilders; both have commissioned independent evaluations of their programmes. The National Audit Office has also been investigating the effectiveness, impact and value for money of Government investment in building the capacity of the third sector, and plans to report early this year.

12. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with representatives of the third sector on the effect on third sector organisations of the current economic climate. [246523]

Kevin Brennan: After the third sector summit on 24 November 2008, the Government announced their intention to publish an Action Plan. The third sector was asked for input to help inform the plan and more than 80 submissions have been received from third sector organisations and individuals about the impact of the economic downturn and proposed responses. The quality of this input has been high, and we plan to publish the Action Plan in the coming weeks.

Government Statistics

11. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of procedures to prevent the premature release of Government statistics. [246522]

Kevin Brennan: Responsibility for setting and assessing good practice regarding the release of official statistics (other than pre-release access to official statistics in their final form) rests with the UK Statistics Authority. The Authority has just published its Code of Practice for Statistics, on which it consulted last year. The Government will implement the Code as it applies to the statistics they produce and use, and will take seriously any breaches of the Code.

Information: Unauthorised Disclosure

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role *(a)* the Cabinet Secretary and *(b)* his Department has in investigating unauthorised disclosures of information from Government departments. [246524]

Mr. Byrne: The role of the Cabinet Office in leak investigations was provided to the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) by the Cabinet Secretary on Wednesday 11 December 2008. A copy of the memorandum was placed in the Libraries of the House.

Charities: Government Assistance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to support charities in the economic downturn. [246362]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Norfolk (Christopher Fraser) and the hon. Member for Kettering (Mr. Hollobone) to PQs 246147 and 246535.

Damian Green

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role the Cabinet Office played in the circumstances leading up to the recent arrest of the hon. Member for Ashford. [241588]

Mr. Byrne: The role of the Cabinet Office in leak investigations generally and in the specific investigation relating to Home Office leaks has been set out in a memorandum provided to the Public Administration Select Committee on 11 December 2008, a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Death: Cancer

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people *(a)* contracted skin cancer and *(b)* died from melanoma in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [247085]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people (a) contracted skin cancer and (b) died from melanoma in the latest period for which information is available. (247085)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006 while the latest figures for deaths are for the year 2007.

Table 1 below provides the number of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin for 2006 and the number of deaths from malignant melanoma of skin for 2007.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of malignant melanoma of skin[1] in 2006 and number of deaths from malignant melanoma of skin[1] in 2007, persons: England

	Malignant melanoma of skin
Cases diagnosed in 2006	8,658
Number of deaths in 2007	1,710

[1] Malignant melanoma of skin is coded to C43 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Death: Weather

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people died from factors attributable to cold weather in *(a)* each London borough and *(b)* each English region in each of the last 10 years. [247032]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from factors attributable to cold weather in (a) each London borough and (b) each English region in each of the last 10 years. (247032)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths in (a) each London Borough and (b) each government office region from 1997/98 to 2006/07 (the latest available).

Table 1: Number of excess winter deaths[1,2] in each London borough and government office region, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Deaths (persons)

Area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
London boroughs										
City of London	0	0	10	10	0	0	-10	0	0	10
Barking and Dagenham	40	120	200	120	90	100	90	110	60	60
Barnet	150	260	290	60	240	130	110	140	100	50
Bexley	130	170	190	140	10	150	70	150	110	120

Table 1. Number of excess winter deaths[1,2] in each London borough and government office region, 1997-98 to 2006-07

Deaths (persons)

Area	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Brent	60	150	180	70	70	70	100	90	30	40
Bromley	50	280	260	190	50	150	120	120	130	150
Camden	80	120	120	70	50	60	70	90	50	30
Croydon	130	290	320	160	190	100	100	150	130	40
Ealing	110	140	210	50	120	120	70	150	50	60
Enfield	150	280	260	40	120	180	70	150	80	60
Greenwich	60	130	190	110	60	70	70	140	20	60
Hackney	60	120	120	60	40	90	0	50	80	60
Hammersmith and Fulham	10	90	120	80	60	100	0	110	50	70
Haringey	80	120	100	50	70	110	60	60	50	30
Harrow	120	140	150	100	80	60	80	90	70	40
Havering	30	230	290	50	150	180	170	160	100	90
Hillingdon	130	130	240	110	120	100	70	150	120	70
Hounslow	80	150	180	100	110	80	60	20	130	-10
Islington	40	100	80	20	70	40	40	80	70	70
Kensington and Chelsea	40	50	80	30	40	40	50	70	30	60
Kingston upon Thames	90	120	150	70	110	40	40	90	110	80
Lambeth	60	130	180	80	30	90	70	70	110	60
Lewisham	80	170	210	120	110	140	40	150	90	80
Merton	70	120	140	90	20	60	40	90	90	100
Newham	30	140	280	110	100	100	40	100	20	50
Redbridge	80	260	220	80	140	60	80	130	100	100
Richmond upon Thames	110	170	160	20	60	100	70	100	70	60
Southwark	100	80	210	110	60	40	50	80	50	80
Sutton	90	150	150	110	80	10	50	120	130	60
Tower Hamlets	50	140	110	80	50	30	10	80	80	60
Waltham Forest	70	170	190	120	60	100	30	170	70	50
Wandsworth	120	140	180	90	110	80	60	150	140	110
Westminster	50	100	130	100	70	40	60	30	40	30
Government office regions										
North East	1,550	2,370	2,680	1,550	1,530	1,260	1,190	1,460	1,080	1,510
North West	2,770	7,350	6,090	3,730	4,040	3,180	3,560	4,440	3,000	3,430
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,460	4,760	4,620	2,570	2,840	2,230	2,710	3,250	2,070	2,330
East Midlands	2,000	4,090	3,820	2,200	2,300	2,050	1,990	2,460	1,990	2,010
West Midlands	2,460	4,860	5,290	2,590	2,670	2,610	2,560	3,590	2,710	2,670
East of England	2,540	4,800	4,880	2,430	2,790	2,480	2,280	3,290	2,810	2,570
London	2,520	4,940	5,870	2,780	2,750	2,810	2,040	3,440	2,560	2,070
South East	3,210	6,710	7,680	3,150	4,140	3,670	3,310	4,590	4,680	3,030
South West	2,240	4,130	4,730	2,270	2,740	2,360	2,290	3,220	2,840	2,780

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246645]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally, but a search of available records has not found any complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by the Cabinet Office. The Advertising Standards Agency maintain a register covering the last five years of all the complaints made to them, with their decisions, on their website at:

http://www.asa.org.uk/asa/

Departmental Publications

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the date of publication was of the most recent edition of the Central Office of Information White Book. [241697]

Mr. Byrne: The White Book was last published in September 2008. Copies are available in the Library.

Departmental Video Recordings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 949W, on departmental recordings, if he will list the names of external film production companies that have been used by the Central Office of Information in the last 12 months. [241898]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated December 2008:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, with reference to the Answer of 13 October 2008, Official Report, column 949W, on departmental recordings, if he will list the names of external film production companies that have been used by the Central Office of Information in the last 12 months. (241898)

These are listed below.

Aardman Animations Limited
Academy Productions
Another Film Company
Bermuda Shorts Limited
Cheerful Scout
Gorgeous Enterprises Limited
Independent Films Limited
Jacaranda Productions Limited
Jack Morton Worldwide
Mustard
New Moon
Nexus Productions Limited
Partizan Lab
Passion Pictures Limited
Pretzel Films Limited
Pukka Films Limited
Rogue Films Limited
RSA Films Limited
Serious Pictures Film Company Limited
Stink Limited
The Edge Picture Company
Tomboy Films Limited
U-Dox Creative Agency
Straker Films
Defeatures
Radley Yelder
Feel Films
Underdog Media
Insight News Television Limited
Story House Films Limited
Moon Films Limited
Spank Corporation
Sledge Limited
Moxie Pictures
Th1ng
Tandem Films
Shine Limited
Wonky Films
Knucklehead Limited
Addiction
Duke
Plunge Films

Disclosure of Information

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will formally request the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden to return to the authorities all material which he has received as a result of unauthorised disclosure to him and which he considers so sensitive it cannot be put into the public domain; and if he will make a statement. [244693]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 December 2008]* The appropriate action to take for anyone in receipt of an unauthorised disclosure is to return the material to the relevant Government Department.

Government Communication Network

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies (i) are classified as Government communicators and (ii) have access to the Government Communication Network. [242219]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Office does not classify staff as Government communicators. Its central communications unit currently includes 28.4 full-time equivalent professional communications staff, with a further eight employed in cross-Government roles in the Government Communication team.

Any civil servant who works in a communication role can register online as an individual to gain access to GCN and the resources it provides through its website. The Cabinet Office recruits to communication roles against GCN professional competences; it also encourages staff in these roles register for GCN to build their professional skills and experience and so help to improve Government communication.

Government Departments: Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations the Central Office of Information has received calling for the establishment of an approved list of public affairs agency suppliers. [241757]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what representations the COI has received calling for the establishment of an approved list of public affairs agency suppliers. (241757)

Neither I nor our Director of News and PR have received representations for the establishment of such a list.

Health and Safety Executive: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name and *(b)* cost was of each advertising campaign carried out by the Central Office of Information in relation to the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last five years. [240573]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated December 2008:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) name and (b) cost was of each advertising campaign carried out in relation to the Health and Safety Executive by COI in each of the last five years [240573].

The information that you have requested is given in the table below.

HSE advertising expenditure

Campaign title	*Total (£)*
2003-04[1]	—
2004-05	
HSE Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2004-05	189,017
HSE Pitch Costs 2004-05	—
HSE Workplace Transport 2004-05	57,727
HSE Business Case Campaign 2004-05	967,054
	1,213,798
2005-06	
HSE Workplace Health Direct 2005-06	137,484
HSE MSD Campaign—Bad Backs 2005-06	1,390,660
HSE Classified Advertising	265,025
Slips and Trips Campaign 2005-06	1,455,545
HSE Agriculture Safety Ads 2005-06	5,675
HSE Classified/Recruitment Advertising (Barkers) 2005-06	7,142
HSE Miscellaneous 2005-06	11,616
HSE Waste and Recycling 2005-06	3,798
HSE Better Business SME Campaign 2005-06	1,097,461
HSE Noise Campaign 2005-06	47,697
Workplace Transport Police 2005-06	110,671
HSE Secondment Placement 2005-06	—
HSE Telegraph Business Club 2005-06	33,201
	4,565,975
2006-07	
HSE Backs 2006-07	1,597,220
Falls from Height 2006-07	813,298
HSE Dermatitis Campaign 2006-07	39,020
HSE Workplace Health 2006-07	90,414
HSE Asbestos 2006-07	48,426
HSE Recruitment Advertising 2006-07	78,715
HSE Telegraph Business Club 2006-07	56,843
Workplace Transport 2006-07	9,424
Respiratory Disease Briefs 2006-07	—
HSE Miscellaneous 2006-07	5,871
Overarching Campaign Strategy for HSE 2006-07	—
	2,739,230
2007-08	
Workplace Transport 2007-08	104,166
HSE Miscellaneous 2007-08	17,169
HSE Overarching Campaign Strategy 2007-08	—
HSE Dermatitis 2007-08	—
HSE Asbestos Campaign 2007-08	217,966
Slips Trips and Falls 2007-08	1,443,844
Workplace Health Connect 2007-08	—
Workboost Wales 2007-08	—
	1,783,145

[1] No advertising activity during 2003-04.

Liam Byrne

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the document "Working with Liam Byrne" produced for civil servants in the Cabinet Office. [241587]

Mr. Byrne: It is not normal practice to publish internal working documents. But I am always happy to update the right hon. Member personally on matters of significance.

Life Expectancy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the life expectancy of *(a)* men and *(b)* women in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England was (A) in 1987, (B) in 1992, (C) in 1997, (D) in 2001, (E) in 2005 and (F) at the latest date for which information is available. [247601]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy of (a) men and (b) women in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England was (A) in 1987, (B) in 1992, (C) in 1997, (D) in 2001, (E) in 2005 and (F) at the latest date for which information is available. (247601)

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages and are available from 1991-93 onwards for local authorities and government office regions. Figures for counties are only available for 2005-07, therefore figures have also been given for Yorkshire and The Humber government office region.

The table below provides the period life expectancy at birth for (a) men and (b) women in (i) North Yorkshire county, (ii) Yorkshire and The Humber and (iii) England for 1991-93, 1996-98, 2000-02, 2004-06 and 2005-07 (the latest figures available).

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], North Yorkshire county, Yorkshire and The Humber government office region and England[2], 1991-93, 1996-98, 2000-02, 2004-06 and 2005-07[3]

Years of life

	Sex	*North Yorkshire*	*Yorkshire and the Humber*	*England*
1991-93	Male	—	73	74
	Female	—	79	79
1996-98	Male	—	74	75
	Female	—	79	80
2000-02	Male	—	75	76
	Female	—	80	81
2004-06	Male	—	77	77
	Female	—	81	82
2005-07	Male	79	77	78

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], North Yorkshire county, Yorkshire and The Humber government office region and England[2], 1991-93, 1996-98, 2000-02, 2004-06 and 2005-07[3]

Years of life

Sex	North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
Female	83	81	82

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Using boundaries as of 2008 for all the years shown.

[3] Three year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

National Income

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the change in UK gross domestic product was in each year since 1997-98. [247605]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting details of the change in gross domestic product in each year since 1997-98. (247605)

Table A provides the latest GDP figures in real terms together with the annual growth rates for each calendar year since 1997. Data for 2008 will be first available with the publication of the Preliminary Estimate of GDP for the Fourth Quarter on 23 January.

Table A

	GDP in real terms (£ million) (ABMI)	Percentage growth rate (IHYP)
1997	951,208	3.3
1998	985,506	3.6
1999	1,019,735	3.5
2000	1,059,658	3.9
2001	1,085,745	2.5
2002	1,108,508	2.1
2003	1,139,746	2.8
2004	1,171,178	2.8
2005	1,195,276	2.1
2006	1,229,196	2.8
2007	1,266,680	3.0

Note:
These figures are based on data published on 23 December 2008.

Non-profit Making Associations

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment his Department has made of the effects on the third sector of his Department's strategy for commissioning public services. [246142]

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effects on the third sector of his Department's strategies for commissioning public services. [246363]

Kevin Brennan: Following the Public Administration Select Committee's report on 'Public Services and the Third Sector: Rhetoric and Reality', the Government Response was published on 11 December 2008. This included an assessment of how far the Government's vision of the state and the third sector working together at all levels and as equal partners can bring about real change in our public services. The Government welcomed the Committee's recognition of the capacity of the sector to deliver excellent and innovative public services but also acknowledged the need to build a robust evidence base that supports the case for more public and private investment in the third sector as a delivery partner. This is why, through the Office of the Third Sector, £5 million has been invested in a new third sector research centre, led by Birmingham university, which will collect and disseminate evidence about the true social and economic value of the sector to society. Government are also investing in a four-year National Programme for Third Sector Commissioning, which is providing training for up to 3,000 commissioners of public services to ensure they get the best out of working with the third sector.

Pensioners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women he estimates will reach state pension age between the end of the first full week in December 2008 and the end of (i) January and (ii) February 2009. [246585]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many (a) men and (b) women it is estimated will reach state pension age between the end of the first full week in December 2008 and the end of (i) January and (ii) February 2009 (246585).

The numbers of men and women projected to reach state pension age in Great Britain are:

8 December 2008 to 31 January 2009 inclusive: 46,000 males and 56,000 females

8 December 2008 to 28 February 2009 inclusive: 69,000 males and 85,000 females

These estimates are derived from the 2006-based national population projections for Great Britain published in October 2007.

Strategic Communications Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what were the running costs of the Downing Street *(a)* strategic communications unit and *(b)* digital communications unit in the most recent year for which figures are available. [241773]

Mr. Byrne: The communications budget, which includes the costs associated with the Strategic Communications Unit and the Press Office, for the financial year 2007-08 was £2.46 million. For the cost of digital communications I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1482W.

Voluntary Work

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment he has made of the cost effectiveness of his Department's policies on support for volunteering. [246144]

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of his Department's policies designed to support volunteering. [246364]

Kevin Brennan: Over the 2008-11 CSR period the Office of the Third Sector will be investing £150 million in volunteering programmes. This supports a range of programmes including v, GoldStar, Volunteering for All and strategic funding to large national organisations.

The monitoring of these projects consists of formal monitoring meetings with delivery partners, tracking of volunteering numbers through the Government's Citizenship Survey and, where appropriate, external programme evaluations.

In relation to the specific programmes, recent assessments show that v has created 875,000 volunteering opportunities since its launch in 2006, the GoldStar programme has run a programme of activities to promote good practice in volunteering and Volunteering for All has successfully delivered a number of campaigns to promote volunteering to groups at risk of social exclusion.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the reason was for the time taken to reply to the hon. Member for Thurrock's question 231272 on assistant regional Ministers, tabled on 23 October 2008; and on what date a final draft answer was submitted to him for approval. [241210]

Mr. Byrne: I have nothing further to add to the answer provided to my hon. Friend on 24 November 2008.

Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female 18-year-olds there were in each year since 2005; and how many of each there are expected to be in each year to 2015. [247129]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many (a) male and (b) female 18-year-olds there were in each year since 2005 and what the Office for National Statistics projects the number of 18-year-olds to be in each year to 2015. (247129)

The table below shows the United Kingdom population of males and females aged 18 for each year from 2005 to 2015. The figures up to and including 2007 are population estimates. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, have been used to provide the estimated population aged 18 from 2008 to 2015.

Population aged 18, United Kingdom, 2005 to 2015

Thousand

	Population aged 18	
	Males	*Females*
Population estimates		
2005	405	385
2006	417	392
2007	412	388
Population projections[1]		
2008	417	392
2009	423	396
2010	415	391
2011	403	377
2012	398	372
2013	389	364
2014	386	362
2015	389	365

[1] 2006-based national population projections, ONS

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Programme

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which Aimhigher projects are focused primarily on primary school pupils; and what the cost of each was in the last 12 months. [247136]

Mr. Lammy: Aimhigher projects are delivered through the 44 area-based Aimhigher partnerships of schools, colleges and universities. Partnerships submit plans to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), summarising the type of activities they intend to undertake. However, they are not required to detail their activities with primary schools separately and do not set out the costs of individual activities.

From 2004 to 2007, HEFCE supported the 'Professor Fluffy' project based at the University of Liverpool. £274,000 was provided jointly from Aimhigher and HEFCE's own funds. The 'Professor Fluffy' project aims to raise awareness of higher education at an early age. In 2004, Professor Fluffy started a tour of primary schools in Greater Merseyside. In a project called 'Professor Fluffy's Greater Merseyside Primary Roadshow', year five and six pupils take part in a range of activities aimed at raising aspirations and introducing the vocabulary of higher education. The project reaches over 140 primary schools a year in Greater Merseyside of which 30 also participate in a visit into one of the colleges or universities. Professor Fluffy's resources are linked to the key stage 2 national curriculum and include the Professor Fluffy comic book, activity booklet and over 20 curriculum modules, e.g. five modern languages and a variety of STEM subjects. The children, and their parents, are also able to access Professor Fluffy's own interactive website which has had over a million pages viewed over the last couple of years. At the end of the programme each pupil receives a special Professor Fluffy certificate in a 'graduation ceremony' to celebrate their participation, together with their very own Professor Fluffy. In addition to the roadshow and university visits, a teachers' pack,

offering five sessions, will be available shortly for purchase by schools. The Professor Fluffy concept and delivery models have been franchised to over 20 partners across the country. So far, Professor Fluffy has visited over 350 primary schools and talked to 30,000 primary pupils and their parents.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects the higher education funding review to commence; when he expects the results of the review to be published; and what schedule has been set for the implementation of the review's recommendations. [247173]

Mr. Lammy: The assurances we have previously given this House made clear that there would be an independent review of tuition fees, reporting to the House, once we had evidence on the first three years of the variable fee regime. The first three years of operation will not be concluded until this autumn. The timing and duration of the review and the publication of its results will enable us to fulfil the commitment given to the House in 2004 that there will be no vote before 2010 at the earliest, and to enable the review to present Parliament with an evidence-based report covering the full range of the issues it has been asked to consider through its terms of reference. It will then be for the House to consider how to respond to any recommendations.

Part-time Education

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of changes in the numbers of part-time students from higher education courses over the period of the next higher education funding review. [247174]

Mr. Lammy: Numbers of part-time students in England have increased by over 200,000 to some 770,000 in 2006-07 since 1997-98 and we will continue to support increased HE participation in future. Our grant letters to HEFCE set out the expected growth in core fundable students (in full-time equivalent terms); however, no distinction between full-time and part-time students is made. Our plans allow for an increase of 30,000 full-time equivalent places by 2009-10 compared with 2007-08.

PRIME MINISTER

Intelligence Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic situation on the budgets of the security services. [245843]

The Prime Minister: My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling) set out the additional provisions for the single intelligence account for 2008-11 in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review: "Meeting the Aspirations of the British People" (Cm 7227). Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Opposition

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister what preparations are in hand to provide briefing by civil servants to the Official Opposition and the Liberal Democrats in advance of the next general election. [246510]

The Prime Minister: I have written to Opposition parties on this matter.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Attorney-General for Northern Ireland: Public Appointments

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report,* columns 267-8W, on the Attorney-General for Northern Ireland: public appointments, what consultations his Department had in respect of arrangements for the appointment of the Attorney General for Northern Ireland. [245013]

Paul Goggins: The appointment of the Attorney-General for Northern Ireland is a matter for the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Departmental Drinking Water

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 881W, on departmental hospitality, which companies provided the bottled water. [243248]

Mr. Woodward: The companies that provided bottled water were as follows:

Antrim Hills Spring Water,
Ballygowan;
Classic Mineral Water.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246985]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office and its executive agencies use two telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers. One number is used by the Department and one by an executive agency.

Inquiries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which legal firms have worked on the Billy Wright inquiry; for what periods; who each firm represented; how much his Department has spent on legal fees for the inquiry; how much has been spent in the inquiry in each month since it was established; and when the inquiry is expect to report. [243380]

Mr. Woodward: I am advised by the Billy Wright inquiry that the following legal firms have worked on it:

Legal firm	*Period of engagement*	*Representation*
Cleaver Fulton and Rankin Solicitors	January 2006	Legal services to the inquiry
John McAtamney and Co	April 2008[1]	David Wright
Crown Solicitors Office	February 2005[1]	A number of prison governors and officers
Treasury Solicitors	April 2007[1]	Northern Ireland Prison Service, and the Northern Ireland Office
McCartan Turkington Breen Solicitors	March 2007[1]	Police Service of Northern Ireland
Diamond Heron Solicitors	January 2005[1]	Prison Officers Association

[1] To date.

In accordance with the Billy Wright inquiry's published funding protocol, witnesses to the inquiry are also entitled to reasonable legal advice at the inquiry's expense and a number of firms have represented witnesses:

Legal firm	*Period of engagement*
Bircham Dyson Bell Solicitors	September 2008
Campbell and Caher Solicitors	March 2006
Edwards and Co Solicitors	December 2006
Ferguson and Co Solicitors	February 2007
Hart Coyle Collins Solicitors	August 2007
John J Rice and Company	April 2007
McBurney and Company Solicitors	April 2008
Madden and Finucane Solicitors	September 2007
O'Rorke McDonald and Tweed Solicitors	March 2006
Reid Black and Co Solicitors	July 2005
Trevor Smyth and Co Solicitors	August 2006 to April 2007
Corker Binning Solicitors	November 2007
Donnelly and Wall Solicitors	November 2008
McConnell Kelly and Co Solicitors	June 2005
Morrison and Broderick Solicitors	September 2006
S.C. Connolly Solicitors	November 2007

Some of these firms have represented only anonymous witnesses, some have represented only witnesses seen in public, and some have represented both. For security (to preserve anonymity) and public interest reasons (not all the witnesses of either type have yet been called to give evidence) it is not felt appropriate to release even the names of the 'public' witnesses before the end of the hearings. Once witnesses are called to give oral evidence the name of their legal representative is published on the inquiry website.

The total cost incurred by the Billy Wright inquiry for legal fees is £6.89 million.

The monthly spend of the inquiry is as follows:

Total resource

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*£000 2004-05*
April	-222	421	191	27	—
May	1,304	416	145	114	—
June	776	955	292	239	—
July	843	1,608	185	105	—
August	770	428	232	120	—
September	265	1,011	254	167	—
October	811	-264	265	209	—
November	1,138	751	314	151	—
December	—	566	332	271	—
January	—	491	442	168	—
February	—	777	483	40	1
March	—	1,444	1,303	651	58
Total	5,685	8,604	4,438	2,262	59

Total capital

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*£000 2005-06*
April	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	29
June	0	0	0	1
July	0	122	0	2
August	0	0	0	-2
September	0	0	0	0
October	0	-122	0	0
November	0	0	0	3
December	—	0	0	-3
January	—	0	0	2
February	—	0	0	0
March	—	266	0	5
Total	0	266	0	37

The inquiry is expected to report by March 2010.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advertising: Complaints

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints were made to the Advertising Standards Authority regarding adverts sponsored or funded by his Department and its predecessor in each year since 1997; and how many were upheld. [242077]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that no complaints have been made to the Advertising Standards Authority regarding advertisements sponsored or funded by the Department or its predecessor, the DTI, in any year since 1997.

Companies: Mentally Ill

Paul Rowen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have been removed from company boards on mental health grounds in each of the last five years. [241990]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* There is no statistical breakdown available for the reasons why directors ceased to hold their appointments as there is no requirement for a company to give a reason for a director ceasing to hold appointment when, as required, it notifies the registrar of any change in its directors.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244723]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Libraries of the House.

In respect of e-mails, this Department will not be able to provide the information without incurring disproportionate cost. To do so would require gathering information from every official in the Department.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243739]

Mr. McFadden: No official funds have been used for Christmas parties in the last three years. The Department does not separately record amounts spent on staff entertainment and figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to ensure that temporary and permanent employees at the same grade and at an hourly rate by his Department are paid at the same rate. [244399]

Mr. McFadden: Staff employed by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) on short-term contracts are paid under the same pay systems that apply to permanent staff in BERR. They are salaried workers and are not paid at an hourly rate.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been allocated for bonuses for staff within his Department in 2008-09. [246589]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform awards non-consolidated bonuses in two formats:

1. Special bonuses to recognise performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations. Staff in receipt of a special bonus may also receive an annual performance award.

2. Annual performance awards paid to highly successful performers as part of the annual pay award.

Based on the information available the total amount spent on annual performance awards in 2008-09 is £2,240,592. Information on special bonuses paid in 2008-09 is not yet available, however the maximum expenditure is 0.4 per cent. of pay bill, in 2007-08 this was approximately £693,386.

This figure includes staff who were transferred from BERR to DECC as part of the October 2008 Machinery of Government changes as these staff received a BERR pay award in 2008.

Departmental Sick Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much sick pay to staff in his Department cost in the last five years for which figures are available. [242224]

Mr. McFadden: The estimated total cost of sickness absence in the Department in each year from 2003 to 2007 is as follows:

	Average cost[1] (£)
2008 (to November 2008)	1,650,240
2007	1,947,436
2006	2,213,308
2005	2,698,448
2004	3,375,352

[1] Cost calculated for all years using the full-time equivalent figure for the Department in each of the last five years and the figure of £764 average cost per person sick (all staff), used in the "Analysis of Sickness absence in the civil service 2007" report published on the public civil service website at:
http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp
along with data for other Departments and agencies.

Japan: Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government are taking to promote trade between Japan and the United Kingdom. [245291]

Mr. Thomas: Through UK Trade and Investment, the Government support initiatives and provide services across a range of sectors for UK companies seeking to do business in Japan, with a clear focus on activity that delivers maximum added value for business and the UK economy.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to meet the Select Committee on Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to discuss the Hooper report. [245821]

Mr. McFadden: I am happy to meet the Select Committee to discuss the Hooper Report when invited to do so.

My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State appeared before the Select Committee for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) today.

Scandinavia: Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and *(a)* Sweden and *(b)* Denmark was in each of the last five years. [245265]

Mr. Thomas: The data requested are shown in the following tables:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Sweden	UK exports of services to Sweden	UK imports of goods from Sweden	UK imports of services from Sweden
2003	3,823	1,700	4,568	1,133
2004	4,356	1,701	5,118	1,148
2005	4,588	1,755	5,463	1,318
2006	5,246	1,964	5,985	1,357
2007	4,899	2,323	5,256	1,223

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Denmark	UK exports of services to Denmark	UK imports of goods from Denmark	UK imports of services from Denmark
2003	2,180	1,528	3,399	783
2004	2,042	1,605	3,357	844
2005	2,314	1,541	4,393	927
2006	3,715	2,313	6,439	1,016
2007	2,180	2,371	3,430	996

Source:
UK Balance of Payments Pink Book, 2008 edition

Woolworths

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what options his Department has to assist Woolworths in the current economic climate; and if he will make a statement. [244340]

Ian Pearson: The company is in administration and the administrators are in charge. We have been closely following the administrators' efforts to find purchasers for Woolworths' stores and its wholesale business though neither Woolworths' management nor its administrators have requested any Government assistance.

The Insolvency Service is doing all it can to get payments to those employees made redundant as soon as possible.

Yorkshire Forward

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the benefit to the local economy arising from the operation of Yorkshire Forward since 2006. [246169]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs. Their report has just been completed and I will be presenting it to the House shortly.

TREASURY

Child Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families claimed children's tax credit for 2002-03; if he will estimate the number of families who were eligible for the credit in that year; what the last date is on which claims for that year may be submitted; and if he will make a statement. [247170]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 14 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1173W, and to paragraph 5.11 of Budget 2002, which can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/Budget 2002.pdf

Claims for children's tax credit for tax year 2002-03 must be submitted to HMRC by 31 January 2009.

Children: Day Care

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to his Statement of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 489-504, on the Pre-Budget Report, what form the proposed trials of systems to make child care payments more closely reflect child care costs are to take; where and when they are planned to take place; and when the results will be made available. [246899]

Mr. Timms: New Opportunities, published on 13 January 2009, provides further details on the pilots to make child care payments that more closely reflect child care costs at the time they are incurred. The document also announces the forthcoming publication of a refresh to the 10-year child care strategy, which will contain additional information on the pilots.

Cox Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total and *(b)* staffing cost of the Cox review of creativity in business was. [247437]

Angela Eagle: The cost of the design, printing and distribution of the report of the Cox review of creativity in business, excluding internal staffing costs, was £34,420. half of which was met by the then Department of Trade and Industry. Any Treasury internal staffing costs associated with the review formed part of general departmental staff costs and are not therefore available separately.

Non-domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect on the economy of the changes to business rates in ports made by the Valuation Office Agency. [245977]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

It is not the Government's practice to make any specific assessment of the overall effect on the British economy of particular tax bills issued in the normal course of business under existing legislation. The legislation under which the VOA is operating is designed to ensure

fairness in the tax system, so that businesses using similar properties face equivalent tax liabilities regardless of their location.

Private Finance Initiative

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total capital value of all *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational signed private finance initiative projects is for (i) Government Departments, (ii) local authorities, (iii) the NHS, (iv) police authorities and (v) Government agencies; [247606]

(2) how many signed private finance initiative projects have become operational since 1997. [247607]

Angela Eagle: The full list of all signed PFI projects can be found on HM Treasury's website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm.

For each PFI project, this list details the project name, the capital value, the constituency, the procuring authority and the annual unitary charge that needs to be paid over the life of the contract.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in how many and what proportion of disputed tax credit cases the liabilities were *(a)* wholly and *(b)* partly written off in each month since April 2003; [246901]

(2) how many and what proportion of tax credit claims were disputed in each month between April 2003 and April 2008. [246902]

Mr. Timms: The Tax Credit Office does not separately record whether an overpayment is written off in part or in full.

For information up to and including 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1010-11W.

The corresponding information for October and November 2008 is provided in the following table:

	Households
2008	*Number of newly disputed overpayments*
October	20,400
November	15,700

WORK AND PENSIONS

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Airwave handsets issued to his Department's Fraud Investigation Service have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the service have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246191]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) The Airwave service went live in the DWP in August 2007, and in the 2007-08 year, one radio was lost and disabled. Since then no radios have been lost.

(b) There have been no breakages to radio terminals that have necessitated a terminal to be disabled.

(c) In one or two instances the radios fitted to surveillance vehicles can be difficult to remove, so when these vehicles are in for routine mechanical servicing the radios are temporarily disabled, as a precaution, for the duration of the service.

Cold Weather Payments: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK which will be eligible for cold weather payments if the temperature falls below the level which triggers payment of the allowance in 2008-09. [243988]

Kitty Ussher: The temperature criterion for cold weather payments is that the average temperature has been recorded as, or is forecast to be, 0° C or below over seven consecutive days at the weather station linked to the customer's postcode.

The estimated number of benefit units[1] eligible for cold weather payments is not available by local authority, parliamentary constituency or county, but only by weather station.

The estimated number of benefit units[1] eligible for cold weather payments in Great Britain in 2008-09 if the temperature criterion is met is 4.1 million.

[1] Cold weather payments are made to benefit units rather than households. For example, a disabled adult on income support living with his mother on pension credit counts as two benefit units but would be thought of as one household.

Notes:

1. The estimate is the one most recently available, but it is only an estimate.

2. Estimates of the number of benefit units eligible for cold weather payments are not available by parliamentary constituency or county.

3. Information regarding cold weather payments in Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland office, estimates of the number of households eligible for cold weather payments are not available.

Source:

Analysis of a scan of benefit recipients eligible for cold weather payments taken at the end of October 2008.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for *(a)* new housing benefit claims and *(b)* reassessed housing benefit claims (i) in total and (ii) in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246597]

Kitty Ussher: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was for a housing benefit claim to be suspended pending a reassessment following notification of a change of circumstances *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246598]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Income Support: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 616W, on income support: ex-servicemen, what proportion of the weekly payments of compensation schemes are disregarded; and if he will make a statement. [246761]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Normally for the income-related benefits, all income is taken into account, with disregards available only in specific circumstances.

Payments to ex-servicemen attract a disregard of £10 when calculating entitlement to income support and the other income-related benefits.

This disregard, which gives war pensioners an advantage over other disabled groups, is paid in recognition of the special nature of these payments.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals receiving jobseeker's allowance were *(a)* UK born and *(b)* non-UK born, broken down by (i) local authority area and (ii) Government Office region, in each year since 1997; [247165]

(2) how many individuals receiving housing benefit were *(a)* UK born and *(b)* non-UK born, broken down by (i) local authority area and (ii) Government Office region, in each year since 1997. [247166]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available; benefit systems do not record place of birth.

Local Housing Allowance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of local housing allowance payments have been made *(a)* directly to tenants, *(b)* directly to landlords on grounds of the tenant's vulnerability and *(c)* directly to landlords on the grounds that the tenant has rent arrears in excess of eight weeks, since April 2008. [247618]

Kitty Ussher: This information is not available.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of provisions within local housing allowance regulations for local authorities to make direct payment to landlords in cases where claimants are vulnerable. [247619]

Kitty Ussher: The Department is undertaking a review of local housing allowance over the two years from the commencement of its national roll-out in April 2008. As part of this review, we will be monitoring the effectiveness of direct payments to landlords in cases of vulnerable claimant.

Means Tested Benefits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits provided by his Department take account of assumed interest on saving in calculating entitlements; how frequently assumed interest rates are reviewed; when the last such review took place; what the assumed rate of interest is; and if he will make a statement. [246358]

Kitty Ussher: Tariff income rules apply to all the income-related benefits for which the Department is responsible: income support; income-based jobseekers allowance; income-based employment and support allowance; pension credit; housing benefit; and council tax benefit.

For the information about tariff income, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 418-19W.

National Workload Forecasts

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* assumptions Jobcentre Plus uses in calculating its national workload forecasts; and if he will make a statement; [245479]

(2) how often Jobcentre Plus updates its national workload forecasts; and what period is covered by each forecast. [245481]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* A common methodology is used to produce the projections of workloads across the benefits, based on the estimates of caseload and new awards of benefit required to forecast benefit expenditure, and published at the pre-Budget report and the Budget. The caseload and new claims are projected using the most appropriate demographic, benefit payment, operational and policy information, and project forward Jobcentre Plus management information. The projections are also adjusted to take into account any seasonality in volumes.

The underlying assumptions vary according to the benefit, but are based on projecting forward recent trends, taking into account changes in relevant factors that are expected in the future. The number of assumptions underlying the projection is very large and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus updates its national workload projection once a quarter, on 31 January, 30 April, 31 July and 31 October. Each projection covers the period up to 2020-21.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* invitation to tender, *(b)* specifications and *(c)* descriptive documents relating to the Post Office card account tender process. [245474]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced to the House in his statement of 13 November 2008, the procurement exercise for a successor to the Post Office card account has been halted and instead another contract will be awarded to Post Office Ltd.

The tender process never reached a final conclusion. We have already published the notice that appeared in the *Official Journal* of the European Union (already in the Library) which set out what we intended to procure.

We do not intend to publish any other related documents.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in revenue which the Post Office will experience as a result of the award of the Post Office card account contract in each year of the contract period. [245475]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The Government are in the process of agreeing the detailed terms of a new contract with Post Office Ltd. The amounts to be paid to Post Office Ltd. will depend on a number of factors including customer behaviour. The financial details of the contract will remain commercially confidential.

Poverty: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in absolute low income in each region in each of the last 10 years. [244453]

Kitty Ussher: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2006/07".

Information on the numbers of children below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income by region is set out in the following table. Three survey year averages are given for each of the regions as robust single year estimates cannot be produced because of volatility in estimates.

Number of children living in households with less than 60 per cent of absolute 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms, by region or country: 1996-97-1998-99 to 2004-05-2006-07

Million

	1996-97 to 1998-99	*1997-98 to 1999-2000*	*1998-99 to 2000-01*	*1999-2000 to 2001-02*	*2000-01 to 2002-03*	*2001-02 to 2003-04*	*2002-03 to 2004-05*	*2003-04 to 2005-06*	*2004-05 to 2006-07*
Before housing costs									
North East	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
North West	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
East Midlands	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
West Midlands	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
East of England	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
London	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
South East	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
South West	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
England	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.1	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4
Wales	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Scotland	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Northern Ireland	[—]	[—]	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
After housing costs									
North East	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
North West	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
East Midlands	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
West Midlands	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
East of England	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
London	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
South East	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
South West	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
England	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.1
Wales	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Scotland	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Northern Ireland	[—]	[—]	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

[1] Not available.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income data.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Median incomes are used as the national average in the publication.
5. The figures are based on OECD equalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.
7. Data for Northern Ireland are only available from 1998-99 to 2000-01 onwards.
8. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

Source:

Households Below Average Income.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children lived in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty in each year between 1979 and 1997. [246581]

Kitty Ussher: The available information on the number of children living in relative and absolute low income since 1979 is given in tables 4.3tr and 4.4tr of the Households Below Average Income publication, published in June 2008, which is available in the Library.

Information is not available for all years requested.

Social Fund

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund cases are currently being handled clerically; and if he will make a statement. [245450]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of all social fund loans awaiting recovery. [245456]

Kitty Ussher: Recoveries from social fund loans are recycled in the form of new loans. This means that, at the end of a financial year, the amount outstanding on all social fund loans is the total that the Government have invested in the social fund since its inception (apart from write-offs).

At 31 March 2008, the amount outstanding on all social fund loans in Great Britain was £906 million.

Notes:

1. social fund loans consist of Budgeting Loans and Crisis Loans.
2. The figure includes amounts outstanding on loans which have been partially repaid.

Source:

Social Fund Account 2007-08.

Social Fund: Funerals

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time taken to process a funeral payment was in the latest period for which information is available; what the target time is; and if he will make a statement. [245816]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is given in the table.

Average length of time taken to process a funeral payment claim in Great Britain

Time period	Achieved (working days)	Standard (working days)
November 2008	13.9	16

Notes:

1. The processing time for an individual claim is measured in whole working days from the date of receipt of the claim to the date of the decision, inclusive.
The minimum processing time recorded for an individual claim is one day, even if the claim is processed immediately.
2. The figures are based on claims processed in the relevant time period not on claims received in that time period.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 236WH, on allotments, if she will make it her policy to extend the legislative protections which prevent allotments from being classified as previously developed land to residential gardens. [246036]

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for her Department's review of the practice known as garden grabbing; and whether she plans to appoint an independent panel to conduct the review. [246383]

John Healey: As I confirmed to the House during the passage of the Planning Act, on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 532, we are committed to a review of the evidence on the extent of development on back gardens to establish whether or not there is a clear and genuine problem. If there is a problem, we will consider action to remedy the situation, only if it would not undermine our objectives on housing.

The terms of the review are due to be decided shortly, and we will publish the information.

Community Development

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's 2005 publication,

"Citizen Engagement and Public Services", what progress has been made on plans to introduce neighbourhood improvement districts. [245989]

John Healey: We have no plans to legislate for neighbourhood improvement districts at this time.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many local authorities have set up the multi-agency tension monitoring groups referred to in the document, "Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion, contingency planning and tension monitoring", published in May 2008; what the estimated running cost will be of such monitoring groups is; and if she will make a statement; [245550]

(2) how many local authorities have submitted to their Government Office monthly tension monitoring reports referred to in paragraph 66 of the publication, "Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion, contingency planning and tension monitoring", published in May 2008; and what use the Government make of these monthly reports; [245551]

(3) what safeguards exist to prevent people from misusing the tension monitoring groups referred to in the report, "Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion, contingency planning and tension monitorin", published in May 2008, in relation to local grievances; [245553]

(4) what procedures will exist to enable individuals to appeal against inaccurate data about themselves gathered under the tension monitoring arrangements referred to in the report, "Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion, , contingency planning and tension monitoring", published in May 2008. [245554]

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 983W, on local authorities: surveillance, which local authorities are now undertaking tension monitoring according to records held by her Department. [245937]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government does not hold a record of the number of local authorities who have set up multi-agency monitoring groups. Tension monitoring and contingency planning is about local partnership working and it is for local authorities to determine the systems they have in place and budget allocation needed to ensure they are able to effectively monitor tensions in their local areas.

The number of local authorities that submit monthly tension monitoring reports can vary each month. Communities and Local Government is therefore unable to keep a consistent record of the number of local authorities who submit monthly tension monitoring returns. We use the monthly reports to identify challenges to cohesion and to identify possible trends; this information is used to inform our strategy for supporting local authorities.

All contributors to the tension monitoring process are required to adhere to the principles of data collection set out in the Data Protection Act 1998. Each organisation that makes a contribution to tension monitoring should have local information sharing protocols in place.

The personal details of individual details are not required for tension monitoring reports. If an individual was mentioned it would be in the context of any civil arrangements brought by the local authority or as a result of any criminal procedures through the police/courts.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable her Department has set for council tax bills to be issued which include efficiency information. [245902]

John Healey: The first council tax demand notices served on a person in respect of the 2009-10 financial year will be required to include efficiency information. The Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3264), which implement this requirement, were laid before Parliament on 22 December.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the specification for the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool. [245907]

John Healey: The specification of the Valuation Office Agency's council tax banding support tool is subject to commercial confidentiality. Accordingly, it will not be placed in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245382]

Mr. Khan: All IT systems within CLG and its agencies that handle protectively marked data are subject to Government security standards and processes. All such systems are accredited to the appropriate Government security standard.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248033]

Mr. Khan: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Eco-Towns: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 122W, on eco-towns, how much funding has been *(a)* provided to date and *(b)* committed for the future to the Town and Country Planning Association in relation to work on eco-towns; and for what purposes. [245926]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W. This set out details about the funding and work undertaken by the Town and Country Planning Association in relation to the eco-towns programme.

Fires

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many electrical fires have occurred in newly rewired or newly built properties in England in each of the last five years. [247115]

Mr. Khan: Fire and rescue services in England do not collect information on property construction dates or a history of electrical maintenance in buildings when attending fires. Information on the number of building fires started by electrics is available in the following table. The latest statistics available are for 2007.

Fires started by electrical appliances/wiring in buildings, by source of ignition, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Country and source of ignition					
England	15,226	79,502	75,983	72,451	67,709
Cooking appliances	1,386	1,441	1,485	1,502	1,419
Electric space heater	140	136	126	155	190
Plugs	56	55	76	96	81
Sockets and switches	308	316	362	371	387
Leads to appliances	495	523	434	429	380
Wire and cable	3,276	3,761	3,729	3,914	3,713
Washing machine	1,075	1,028	992	910	815
Dishwasher	443	427	370	351	381
Refrigerator	628	687	633	559	565
Tumble and spin driers	853	1,021	999	886	1,005
Lighting	2,417	2,788	2,784	2,780	2,655
Blanket or bedwarmer	252	181	165	133	111
Television	425	524	455	419	438
Iron	60	39	77	85	100
AV, VDU or computer	246	271	243	247	232
Other electrical	3,166	2,848	2,832	2,943	2,773

[1] Provisional

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires in England were due to *(a)* electrical faults and *(b)* faulty electric cables in each of the last five years. [247116]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is set out in the respective following tables. The latest statistics available are for 2007:

Cause of fires in buildings by source of ignition, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Source of ignition					
Faults in equipment or appliances					
England	7,595	7,850	7,825	7,740	7,677
Cooking appliances	382	388	413	392	445
Electric space heater	20	11	28	43	56
Plugs	8	11	18	13	14
Sockets and switches	54	101	94	106	108
Leads to appliances	67	104	91	114	102
Wire and cable	695	823	951	941	1,053
Washing machine	983	907	847	804	692
Dishwasher	401	339	310	311	337
Refrigerator	529	569	518	464	472
Tumble and spin driers	566	667	599	574	667
Lighting	1,375	1,549	1,604	1,551	1,449
Blanket or bedwarmer	173	131	104	102	70

Cause of fires in buildings by source of ignition, England, 2003-07[1]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Television	369	451	389	379	388
Iron	28	9	27	19	35
AV, VDU or computer	192	167	189	193	173
Other electrical	1,792	1,622	1,643	1,733	1,615
Faulty leads to appliances					
England	686	734	721	717	665
Cooking appliances	18	23	17	15	19
Plugs	6	6	12	9	11
Sockets and switches	12	17	26	19	18
Leads to appliances	321	316	229	230	197
Wire and cable	154	192	211	221	224
Washing machine	11	12	18	16	14
Dishwasher	5	5	1	4	4
Refrigerator	10	21	15	20	12
Tumble and spin driers	12	11	24	11	8
Lighting	67	53	94	72	73
Blanket or bedwarmer	7	8	10	6	5
Television	8	7	7	8	6
Iron	4	3	2	1	4
AV, VDU or computer	8	8	7	10	13
Other electrical	43	52	48	75	58

[1] Provisional

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses she received to her Department's recent consultation on community land trusts; who the respondents were; and when she plans to bring forward proposals on *(a)* regulation and *(b)* funding of community land trusts. [248181]

Mr. Iain Wright: The consultation closed on 31 December 2008. The Government received 63 responses from a variety of stakeholders. We are currently analysing the responses and will be publishing a summary in the near future.

Improvement and Development Agency

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Improvement and Development Agency will receive from her Department in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two years. [245529]

John Healey: The funding the Department will provide to the Improvement and the Development Agency under the revenue support grant is as follows:

	£
2008-09	28,730,000
2009-10	32,170,000
2010-11	25,335,000

Note:
As proposed in the provisional local government finance settlement 2009-10.

Local Government: Data Protection

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of numbers of data losses by local authorities in the last 12 months. [246007]

Mr. Khan: This is a matter for individual local authorities who, like all public sector organisations are required to comply with data protection legislation.

The Local Government Association (LGA) have recently published "Data Handling Guidelines for Local Government" to complement the Central Government Data Handling Guidelines published by the Cabinet Office. We welcome the LGA guidelines and my officials were consulted on their publication. They are available online at:

http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=9040133

Non-Domestic Rates: Licensed Premises

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 887-88W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, what steps *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency has taken to raise awareness amongst the licensees of licensed premises of the change of policy on material changes of circumstances arising from the prohibition of smoking on licensed premises. [245965]

John Healey: On 11 November 2008 I personally wrote to the main trade associations representing public house operators and occupiers to help ensure that their members are clear about the change in approach to the rating assessments for pubs following the introduction of the smoking ban.

The chief executive's office of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) was in direct contact concerning this issue with representatives of those same trade associations back in June—very shortly after receipt of the legal advice which prompted the change of view on the validity of proposals to reduce rating assessments on account of the ban.

The VOA was in regular contact with the various representatives and in particular the rating advisor to the British Beer and Pub Association throughout the summer.

Staff in VOA local offices made every effort to contact those pubs who had made proposals earlier on, which were then treated as invalid, to tell them about the change of view. Various members of staff made presentations to local rating forums/trade groups in order to heighten awareness.

An article has recently been published in the *Morning Advertiser* (a widely read licensed trade magazine)—primarily this provides answers to questions about the 2010 rating revaluation, but also the opportunity was taken to further clarify the smoking ban issue.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external legal opinions her Department has received on (i) changes to business rates for ports and (ii) associated new forms of valuation. [246051]

John Healey: The Secretary of State and Ministers take advice from all appropriate quarters on changes to legislation.

Place Surveys

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with what frequency local authorities are required to conduct place surveys, broken down by authority *(a)* type and *(b)* tier; and what estimate she has made of the average cost of a survey to a local authority. [245988]

John Healey: The place survey will be conducted once every two years in every local authority area in England, regardless of authority type or tier. Fieldwork for the 2008 place survey took place between September and December 2008. The next place survey is therefore due to take place in the autumn of 2010.

Further information, including the timetable for the place survey, can be found at the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/placesurveymanual0809.

The latest estimate of the cost to a local authority of conducting a single years place survey puts the figure at £15,000. This estimate takes into account a range of costs related to survey administration including staffing, printing and postage costs.

Planning Obligations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities who have access to section 106 monies for the purpose of building social housing which have not yet spent this money; and if she will make a statement. [246865]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number and value of agreed planning obligations for affordable housing by each local authority is not collected centrally. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government has produced research reports into the value of planning obligations in England for 2003-04 and 2005-06 based on a sample of authorities across the country. These reports are available on the Department's website. New research covering 2007-08 has been commissioned and will be published in the summer.

The findings estimate the total value of affordable housing agreed using planning obligations has risen from around £1.2 billion in 2003-04 to £2 billion in 2005-06. Of this amount for 2005-06 £211.5 million was estimated to be attributed to agreed direct payments and the remainder account for in-kind payments. The value of affordable housing delivered in 2005-06 was estimated at £1.4 billion. The estimated value of affordable housing delivered against agreements should be considered in context, as not all of the permissions to which the agreements are attached will be implemented and some others will be renegotiated.

The Government are clear that local authorities should be open and accountable over the collection and use of s106 monies. We will explore whether more can be done to strengthen this local accountability through the Empowerment White Paper published in July 2008.

Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnerships

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff are employed by regional improvement efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) in each region; and how many staff in each RIEP work on cohesion-related issues. [245532]

John Healey: Information on staff employed by regional improvement efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) is not held centrally. The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy devolves responsibility to RIEPs for identifying where resources should be spent and using their resources in the best way to obtain the help they may need to assist councils and support to drive LAA outcomes. This is in line with the 2006 Local Government White Paper's aim to devolve power to local areas and the communities they represent and so improve local service delivery and quality of life for local people.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each regional improvement efficiency partnership will spend on cohesion and integration issues in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two years. [245533]

John Healey: Information on how much the regional improvement and efficiency partnerships will spend on cohesion and integration issues is not held centrally. The National Improvement and Efficiency Strategy devolves responsibility to RIEPs for identifying where resources should be spent and using their resources in the best way to obtain the help they may need to assist councils and support to drive LAA outcomes. This is in line with

the 2006 Local Government White Paper's aim to devolve power to local areas and the communities they represent and so improve local service delivery and quality of life for local people.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have responded to the south-east plan proposals *(a)* via the website of the Government office for the south- east and *(b)* via the official consultation form. [247169]

Mr. Khan: The Government office for the south-east is still in the process of logging responses. The following is an approximation:

(a) People responding via the website: 146

(b) People responding via the official form: 3,673.

In addition we have received 4,845 by other methods. All will be considered carefully.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many responses to the south-east plan have been received from addresses in the Guildford borough council area. [247178]

Mr. Khan: We have so far identified over 4,800 responses from addresses in the Guildford borough council area. My officials need to do further work to confirm all final numbers.

Rented Housing: Greater London

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many private sector landlords in London own fewer than 10 properties; and what proportion housing stock in London such properties represent. [246803]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on the Private Landlords Survey for 2006, indications of the number of small landlords have only been modelled at the national level. The limited sample size is insufficient to provide a robust basis for deriving model-based regional estimates.

It is estimated that 72 per cent. of all private sector landlords in England in 2006 had portfolios of fewer than 10 properties.

Rented Housing: Private Sector

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the change has been in *(a)* the size of the private rented sector and *(b)* average mortgage costs since 2000. [246827]

Mr. Iain Wright: Based on the Survey of English Housing, average private rents in England (net of charges for services) are estimated to have risen from £92 per week in 2000-01 to £123 per week in 2006-07, an increase of 34 per cent.

For households in England who were repaying a mortgage, average mortgage payments were £86 per week in 2000-01 and £131 per week in 2006-07—an increase of 52 per cent.

Social Services: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken on the Communities and Local Government Committee's recommendation in its Second Report of Session 2006-07, on coastal towns, HC 351, that the Government need to take action to reduce the number of out-of-area placements and to ensure that when children are placed out of their local area there is improved communication between authorities. [244282]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Committee's report on coastal towns raised the important issue of the difficulties that can arise when looked-after children are placed away from their home area. We are determined that every looked-after child must be provided with the appropriate support by the local authorities responsible for their care.

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 recently received Royal Assent and section 8 sets out the considerations that local authorities must have regard to when they are considering making a placement for a looked-after child. This includes giving first consideration as far as is reasonably practicable to a placement being near a child's home and within the local authority's area. We will be issuing regulations and statutory guidance on section 8 which will provide more detail about the responsibilities of placing authorities. This will include that where children have to be placed at a distance from their home areas, the placement is the most suitable to meet their needs; and that relevant information about the child is shared with the local authority in the area where the child has been placed. Furthermore, section 16 of the Act reaffirms local authority responsibilities to ensure visits to looked-after children including those placed out of authority and a long way from their homes.

Urban Areas: Research

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W, on urban areas: research, what account her Department has taken of proposals for polycentric mega-city regions in the formulation of its policy. [245939]

John Healey: The findings of the POLYNET Interreg 11B project have helped to further my Department's understanding of the dynamic and complex economic interrelationships between cities and city-regions, and their role in driving economic growth and prosperity. The study formed part of the evidence base that influenced reforms proposed in the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose of the Valuation Office Agency's notification change code CL26 is. [246045]

John Healey: Notification change codes are used to indicate the reason for a change made to a council tax valuation list entry. Code CL26 is used where the list entry is amended to correct an inaccuracy.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1155W, on waste disposal, what *(a)* advice and *(b)* guidance has been issued to local authorities by (i) her Department and (ii) the Audit Commission on achieving efficiency savings by moving to alternate weekly collections of household waste. [245927]

John Healey: No advice or guidance has been issued to local authorities by the Department or the Audit Commission that specifically deals with the achievement of efficiency gains by moving to alternate weekly collections of household waste. The Department has issued general guidance to councils on the measurement of efficiencies; the current version of this guidance is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/local government/reportingvfmguide

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abdulmajid Hassan Ismail

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will cease proceedings to remove Abdulmajid Hassan Ismail (ref J1104674) to Sudan. [244327]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Any request for information regarding individual cases is treated as being confidential by the UK Border Agency and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is, of course, unless they are authorised representatives of the applicant. This is not a question of secrecy for its own sake, but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual.

Alcohol Disorder Zones

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government have spent on advertising costs and producing information material on alcohol disorder zones. [243322]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office has spent a total of £9,985 producing the "Alcohol Disorder Zones: A short Guide to Setting up and Managing ADZs". This includes the editing and proof reading costs as well as the cost of printing hard copies of the guidance. No advertising costs have been incurred in respect of ADZs.

No direct costs were incurred in respect of the original version of the ADZ guidance produced earlier in 2008. The original guidance was produced by a small number of officials who have worked on this policy area, in addition to other duties. It is not possible to quantify the cost or the time that has been spent working and consulting on this policy area.

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which local authorities have designated zones where street drinking is banned. [246423]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has been informed that 244 local authorities in England and Wales have introduced at least one designated public place order (DPPO) with 654 DPPOs being implemented overall.

A full list of the councils which have implemented the orders can be accessed at the following internet link:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/alcoholorders/alcoholorders09.htm.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people visited the Know Your Limits stand sponsored by her Department at the Clothes Show Live exhibition. [243605]

Jacqui Smith: The event team at the Clothes Show counted 12,145 visitors who engaged with the activities on the stand. As solely active participants in the tasks were counted, this figure does not include the spectators coming to view the stand, which we estimate to have been a significantly higher number.

In addition to the stand, Clothes Show visitors were exposed to high impact Know Your Limits posters outside changing rooms, and messages inside the cubicles and mirrors in changing rooms throughout the exhibition. The total number of attendees to the event was estimated to be 190,000.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003 in 2007; how many were found guilty of the offence in all courts; and how many were issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence, broken down by police force area. [244846]

Jacqui Smith: Data showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of all courts for the offence sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, England and Wales broken down by police force area in 2007 can be viewed in table 1.

The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003, England and Wales, also broken down by police force area in 2007, can be viewed in table 2.

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the 2003 Licensing Act, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[1,2,3]

Force	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Cheshire	1	—
Cleveland	1	—
Devon and Cornwall	2	—
Durham	1	1

Table 1: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the offence of sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the 2003 Licensing Act, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[1,2,3]

Force	Proceeded against	Found guilty
South Yorkshire	2	—
England and Wales	7	1

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Only police force areas (PFAs) with data have been included in the table—if a PFA has not been included assume nil data.
Source:
E and A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Table 2: Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for sale of alcohol to a drunken person under section 141 of the 2003 Licensing Act, England and Wales, broken down by police force area, 2007[1,2]

Force	PNDs issued
Avon and Somerset	1
Cambridgeshire	2
Cleveland	4
Cumbria	1
Derbyshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	2
Essex	1
Greater Manchester	7
Hampshire	3
Humberside	1
Kent	4
Lancashire	6
Leicestershire	4
Merseyside	8
Metropolitan Police	18
Norfolk	1
Northumbria	2
Nottinghamshire	1
Staffordshire	2
Suffolk	2
Sussex	2
Thames Valley	2
West Mercia	3
West Yorkshire	1
North Wales	1
South Wales	1
England and Wales	81

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Only police force areas (PFAs) with data have been included in the table—if a PFA has not been included assume nil data.
Source:
E and A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Haltemprice and Howden of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1275W, on alcoholic drinks: enforcement, how many people were *(a)* prosecuted, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* given a level two fine for the offence of failing to comply with a requirement by a constable regarding the consumption of alcohol in a designated public place in 2007. [244968]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 713-14W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on alcohol: young people, if she will provide figures for 2007 on *(a)* prosecutions, *(b)* convictions and *(c)* penalty notices for disorder issued. [244775]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of persons who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to purchase of alcohol by a person aged under 18 years in England and Wales in 2007 can be viewed in the following table.

In addition there were 158 Penalty Notices for Disorder issued to youths aged 16 to 17 for the offence of "Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by a person under 18" (section 149(1), Licensing Act 2003 (c.17) for 2007 in England and Wales. The offence was added to the Scheme in April 2004 and attracts a penalty of £50.

The number of persons who were proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to purchase of alcohol by a person aged under 18 years in England and Wales, 2007[1,2,3]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2007	5	4

[1] Data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Data include the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions :
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(2).
Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor.
Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in Licensed premises.
Licensing Act 2003 S. 149(1)(7a)
Purchase of alcohol by an individual under 18.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.
However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, other agencies, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Court proceedings data held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Asylum: Expenditure

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on the *(a)* assisted voluntary returns and *(b)* enforced returns of unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last five years; and how many were returned under each system. [242776]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The information is as follows.

Asylum based assisted voluntary returns (AVR)

	AVR spend (£)	*Number returning under AVR*
2003-04	[1]4,787,054.00	—
2004-05	8,767,885.83	2004—2,705
2005-06	9,450,020.00	2005—3,235
2006-07	14,851,442.42	2006—5,340
2007-08	12,135,665.00	2007—2,865

[1] Assisted voluntary returns figures were not published in 2003.

Notes:

1. Financial spend figures for AVR Programme year 2008-09 are not yet available as the programme is still currently operating.

2. Financial spend figures for AVR programme years 2006-07 and 2007-08 are still subject to audit and are therefore subject to change and should be treated as provisional

3. Asylum based returns under assisted voluntary return programmes (run by the International Organization for Migration) may include some cases leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programme and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

4. Asylum based AVR returns figures for 2007 should be treated as provisional.

A breakdown of the spend on enforced returns of unsuccessful asylum seekers in each of the last five years is not available. The National Audit Office (NAO) give a breakdown of what it costs to enforce the removal of a failed asylum seeker in Appendix 2 of their Report "Returning Failed Asylum applicants". In this they estimate the average cost of an enforced removal as being £11,000.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including removals, are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

British Nationality

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people resident in the UK hold UK citizenship. [241797]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office holds records of those people who have acquired British citizenship by registration or naturalisation. It does not hold records of those who have an automatic claim to citizenship, for example by being born here.

Crime: Economic Situation

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect of the economic downturn on levels of recorded crime. [246602]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Academic research, including a study by the Home Office, has demonstrated an association between changes in the economy and some crime. These studies cannot fully allow for the impact of policy or other interventions and hence do not predict actual levels of crime.

Since March 2003, overall crime has fallen by 18 per cent. exceeding the 15 per cent. target set out in the Home Office's public service agreement. That reduction is greater than would have been forecast based on economic factors alone, and the Department is confident that the right policies and systems are in place to continue to cut crime and that they provide the flexibility needed to respond to future economic challenges.

Crime: Victims

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of crime have benefited from the Youth Crime Action Plan in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [245011]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to driving down youth crime and keeping the communities, including young people themselves, safer and reducing youth victimisation.

Information on how many victims of crime have benefited from the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) is not available either from the British Crime Survey (BCS) or police recorded crime data as the action plan has only been published for a few months. However, following a recommendation of the independent Smith review of the Home Office crime statistics, the British Crime Survey is being extended to include those aged under 16 years from 2009. This will assist in providing a clearer understanding of youth victimisation. We know that young people are more likely to be victims of other young people, and we are committed to driving down levels of youth victimisation. Through the implementation of the YCAP, we have introduced a new national objective to substantially reduce the number of young victims by 2020.

As part of YCAP, in October 2008 we announced that five areas across the country have been awarded a share of nearly half a million pounds to undertake pilot work to create the next generation of support services for young victims of crime.

These areas are Derby, Lambeth, Norfolk, Lewisham and Oxfordshire.

Also it was announced in September 2008 that £56.5 million of the YCAP money will be used to tackle youth crime across England in 69 local authority areas.

Each of the 69 areas were being offered £700,000 to implement an intensive package of action over the next three years, with an immediate cash injection of £90,000 available to each local authority in (2008).

This builds on the excellent work already under way in many local areas across the country and on the Government's track record in investing in children and young people. Measures will include:

Operation Stay Safe—using safeguarding laws to remove young people at risk from the streets at night;

street-based teams of youth workers and ex-gang members to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder;

increased visible police patrols during after-school hours;

expanding Family Intervention Projects to respond more effectively to families at risk;

providing positive activities for young people;

placing youth offending team workers in police stations so that young offenders can be dealt with and directed to the most appropriate service at the earliest opportunity; and

making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by expanding reparation during their leisure time, including on Friday and Saturday nights.

Of the 69 local authorities areas, those in the North East have agreed to deliver the following measures to tackle youth crime in their area:

Darlington
- Operation Stay Safe
- Street based teams
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite

Durham
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- After school patrols
- Family Intervention Programme (FIP)

Gateshead
- Street based teams
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- Reparation in leisure time

Hartlepool
- Street based teams
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- Operation Stay Safe
- After school patrols
- Reparation in leisure time
- Family Intervention Programme (FIP)
- Think Family

Middlesbrough
- Street based teams
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- Reparation in leisure time

Newcastle upon Tyne
- Street based teams
- After school patrols

North Tyneside
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- Family Intervention Programme (FIP)

Redcar and Cleveland
- Reparation in leisure time
- Street based teams
- Family Intervention Programme (FIP)

South Tyneside
- Street based teams

Stockton-on-Tees
- Street based teams
- After school patrols
- Reparation in leisure time

Sunderland
- Youth Offending Team in custody suite
- Reparation in leisure time
- Family Intervention Programme (FIP)

Departmental Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Border and Immigration Agency lost or misplaced databases relating to (i) British citizens and (ii) foreign nationals in each of the last five years; what information, relating to how many people, was held on lost or misplaced databases; and if she will make a statement. [243124]

Mr. Woolas: Home Office records do not show any incidents of lost or misplaced databases containing data on British citizens or foreign nationals since 1997.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244612]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office (including its Executive Agencies) is conscious of the need to minimise energy consumption. Our new facilities management contractors provide proactive energy management services including the collection of better quality and more timely data.

We have also begun working with the Carbon Trust on a Carbon Management project with a view to surveying our larger buildings across the estate and implementing further energy saving measures.

The Home Office has already taken some steps in many of its larger buildings to use energy more efficiently. For example we have shortened the operating hours of our cooling and heating plant, reduced the switch-on periods of the motion detector lighting and replaced inefficient lamps.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by her Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246641]

Mr. Woolas: Complaints made about Home Office adverts are made directly to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA)—not the Home Office. The Home Office is only informed of a complaint if the ASA decide to investigate. We are therefore unable to provide figures for the numbers of complaints.

During the period 1 January 1997 to 21 December 2008 no complaints were upheld by the ASA about a Home Office advertisement.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on which occasions her Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if she will make a statement. [243039]

Mr. Woolas: Since 2000 the Home Office has convened citizens' juries to inform two policy areas, both within the financial year 2007-08. One was a public consultation on crime, the other a series of public debates held across the country for UKBA. In each case participants were paid to attend.

The Department recognises the important contribution that the public can make in developing policy and carries out a wide range of activities in addition to citizens' juries which allow Ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders in developing policy.

With regards to use of panels specifically: we are unable to separate out and identify the different research projects where panels may have been used for recruitment purposes.

Deportation: Sudan

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Statement by Lord West of Spithead on 9 July 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 750, whether Mr. Abdulmajid Hassan Ismail has been deported to Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [244410]

Mr. Woolas: Any request for information regarding individual cases is treated as being confidential by the UK Border Agency and is not normally disclosed to third parties. This is, of course, unless they are authorised representatives of the applicant. This is not a question of secrecy for its own sake, but simply a matter of protecting the privacy of the individual.

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwe nationals are detained in detention centres awaiting deportation back to Zimbabwe; how many of these people have been convicted of a crime in the UK; and how many of those have completed their sentences. [246244]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency detains only those Zimbabwean nationals who have committed crimes within the United Kingdom and are subject to deportation action and have been assessed as unsuitable for release due to being either a threat to the public and/or are likely to abscond. There are currently around 35 Zimbabwean criminals who have been detained beyond their sentence.

All foreign criminals detained pending deportation action have their detention regularly reviewed and have the opportunity to apply for release on bail to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Detention Centres: Per Capita Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average daily cost of detaining an illegal immigrant in a detention centre was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [246235]

Jacqui Smith: The average daily cost of detaining a person within the immigration removal centre estate is £130.

Entry Clearances

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas issued by posts in *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan, *(c)* Bangladesh, *(d)* South Africa, *(e)* Australia and *(f)* the US have been revoked in each of the last five years. [243118]

Mr. Woolas: The information could be provided only by checking individual applications which would be at disproportionate cost. The figures available for posts in India and Bangladesh, however, are given in the following table:

	India	*Bangladesh*
2004	[1]14	n/a
2005	90	10
2006	102	9
2007	74	14
2008	68	12
Total	348	45

[1] Figures for Mumbai only.
Note:
These figures are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Entry Clearances: Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to facilitate visa applications online. [242887]

Mr. Woolas: An online application facility, known as Visa4UK, is provided by the UK Border Agency for visa applicants in 149 countries.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people aged under 16 years have a profile on the National DNA Database; and of these how many have a conviction recorded on the police national computer; [241665]

(2) how many people aged under 10 years have a profile on the National DNA Database; and of these how many have a conviction recorded on the police national computer. [241666]

Jacqui Smith: At 30 September 2008, there were 136,709 subject profiles on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) from persons currently aged under 16 submitted by police forces in England and Wales. The estimated number of individuals represented on the NDNAD is lower than the number of subject profiles as some profiles are replicates. The subject profile replication rate is currently calculated as 13.3 per cent. The estimated number of individuals aged under 16 is 118,527.

The NDNAD does not hold information on criminal histories such as subsequent charges, cautions or convictions; this information is held on the police national computer (PNC). Information on the number of young persons aged under 16 who have a profile on the NDNAD and who have a conviction is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, some information is available on the number of persons aged under 18 on the NDNAD who have a conviction. This was obtained from the NDNAD and the PNC on 9-10 April 2008. The NDNAD data indicate that, on 10 April 2008, there were 349,934 subject sample profiles relating to persons aged 10 to 17 on it. Taking the replication rate into account, it is estimated that the 349,934 profiles are equivalent to 303,393 persons aged 10 to 17. Data obtained from the PNC on 9-10 April indicate that, of those estimated 303,393 persons, 264,297 (87.1 per cent.) had a conviction, caution, reprimand or had received a final warning and 39,095 (12.8 per cent.)

had not been convicted, cautioned, received a final warning/reprimand and had no charge pending against them.

At 30 September 2008, there were 70 subject profiles on the NDNAD from children currently aged under 10 submitted by police forces in England and Wales. The profile replication rate is not likely to apply to children aged under 10 as, in England and Wales, they are below the age of criminal responsibility and they cannot be arrested, prosecuted or convicted. Samples may only be taken from them with the consent of a parent or guardian.

On 16 December 2008 I announced that the Government would take immediate steps to remove the DNA profiles of children aged under 10 from the NDNAD.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 676-7W, on genetics: databases, if she will break down the information given by police force area. [243418]

Jacqui Smith: Numbers of profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) where the person concerned was under 18 (regardless of their current age), are shown in table 1. Numbers of profiles added to the NDNAD where the person concerned is currently under 18 are shown in table 2. Numbers of profiles added to the NDNAD where the person concerned was under 18 at the time the profile was loaded but is now over 18 are shown in table 3.

The figures provide a snapshot of the numbers added to the NDNAD by police forces in England and Wales as at 26 November 2008. In each table the numbers are broken down by gender and the police force which added the profile.

'Unassigned' means that the police representative did not complete the section of the form referring to the person's gender.

The number of profiles on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals as a profile may be a replicate, that is, a profile may have been loaded on more than one occasion. This can occur if a person gives a different name, or different version of their name on separate arrests, or if a profile is upgraded. The current replication rate for the whole NDNAD is 13.3 per cent.

The replication rate for profiles added by particular police forces may vary from this. Therefore a figure is given in each table for the estimated number of individuals on the NDNAD added by English and Welsh forces, but figures are not given for the estimated number of individuals added by each police force.

Table 1

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
Avon and Somerset	Female	5,747
	Male	15,794
	Unassigned	408
Bedfordshire	Female	2,760
	Male	7,095
	Unassigned	227

Table 1

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
British Transport	Female	1,669
	Male	8,120
	Unassigned	190
Cambridgeshire	Female	3,702
	Male	9,195
	Unassigned	11
Cheshire	Female	4,662
	Male	13,243
	Unassigned	400
City of London	Female	171
	Male	1,084
	Unassigned	2
Cleveland	Female	3,712
	Male	9,886
	Unassigned	62
Cumbria	Female	2,957
	Male	8,085
	Unassigned	67
Derbyshire	Female	5,491
	Male	15,042
	Unassigned	191
Devon and Cornwall	Female	6,957
	Male	19,122
	Unassigned	89
Dorset	Female	3,126
	Male	8,269
	Unassigned	28
Durham	Female	3,927
	Male	10,650
	Unassigned	6
Dyfed-Powys	Female	2,870
	Male	7,940
	Unassigned	102
Essex	Female	9,356
	Male	23,971
	Unassigned	152
Gloucestershire	Female	3,086
	Male	7,661
	Unassigned	136
Greater Manchester	Female	16,589
	Male	45,486

Table 1

Force	Gender	Total subject profile count
	Unassigned	524
Gwent	Female	3,103
	Male	9,793
	Unassigned	310
Hampshire	Female	10,071
	Male	25,639
	Unassigned	51
Hertfordshire	Female	5,200
	Male	12,829
	Unassigned	89
Humberside	Female	5,897
	Male	15,481
	Unassigned	85
Kent	Female	9,935
	Male	24,748
	Unassigned	462
Lancashire	Female	7,994
	Male	24,514
	Unassigned	172
Leicestershire	Female	3,307
	Male	11,323
	Unassigned	53
Lincolnshire	Female	2,760
	Male	7,621
	Unassigned	76
Merseyside	Female	7,130
	Male	22,799
	Unassigned	156
Metropolitan	Female	34,394
	Male	117,133
	Unassigned	562
Norfolk	Female	4,208
	Male	10,380
	Unassigned	47
North Wales	Female	3,619
	Male	10,253
	Unassigned	87
North Yorkshire	Female	3,886
	Male	9,416
	Unassigned	68
Northamptonshire	Female	1,622

Table 1

Force	Gender	Total subject profile count
	Male	6,137
	Unassigned	36
Northumbria	Female	13,235
	Male	30,544
	Unassigned	111
Nottinghamshire	Female	6,397
	Male	16,616
	Unassigned	650
South Wales	Female	7,275
	Male	19,187
	Unassigned	147
South Yorkshire	Female	7,697
	Male	20,835
	Unassigned	1
Staffordshire	Female	5,757
	Male	16,738
	Unassigned	59
Suffolk	Female	3,580
	Male	8,957
	Unassigned	266
Surrey	Female	3,610
	Male	10,033
	Unassigned	27
Sussex	Female	7,744
	Male	18,137
	Unassigned	8
Thames Valley	Female	8,540
	Male	23,721
	Unassigned	183
Warwickshire	Female	2,014
	Male	5,903
	Unassigned	40
West Mercia	Female	5,474
	Male	13,890
	Unassigned	57
West Midlands	Female	17,194
	Male	49,447
	Unassigned	1,907
West Yorkshire	Female	15,518
	Male	38,156
	Unassigned	164

Table 1

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
Wiltshire	Female	3,230
	Male	8,353
	Unassigned	68
Total profiles		1,094,091
Total estimated individuals		948,577

Table 2

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
Avon and Somerset	Female	2,379
	Male	5,006
	Unassigned	100
Bedfordshire	Female	1,013
	Male	2,176
	Unassigned	9
British Transport	Female	490
	Male	1,898
	Unassigned	22
Cambridgeshire	Female	1,369
	Male	2,808
	Unassigned	1
Cheshire	Female	1,779
	Male	3,797
	Unassigned	12
City of London	Female	32
	Male	159
Cleveland	Female	1,489
	Male	3,005
	Unassigned	22
Cumbria	Female	1,152
	Male	2,622
	Unassigned	4
Derbyshire	Female	2,099
	Male	4,819
	Unassigned	109
Devon and Cornwall	Female	2,451
	Male	5,210
	Unassigned	1
Dorset	Female	1,077
	Male	2,325
	Unassigned	1

Table 2

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
Durham	Female	1,487
	Male	3,327
	Unassigned	1
Dyfed-Powys	Female	928
	Male	2,166
	Unassigned	6
Essex	Female	3,816
	Male	7,846
	Unassigned	22
Gloucestershire	Female	1,112
	Male	2,220
	Unassigned	6
Greater Manchester	Female	6,178
	Male	13,750
	Unassigned	123
Gwent	Female	910
	Male	2,438
	Unassigned	94
Hampshire	Female	3,618
	Male	7,585
	Unassigned	4
Hertfordshire	Female	2,044
	Male	3,918
	Unassigned	2
Humberside	Female	1,998
	Male	3,866
	Unassigned	29
Kent	Female	3,615
	Male	7,582
	Unassigned	19
Lancashire	Female	2,513
	Male	6,423
	Unassigned	124
Leicestershire	Female	1,143
	Male	3,104
	Unassigned	5
Lincolnshire	Female	1,087
	Male	2,375
	Unassigned	34
Merseyside	Female	2,600

Table 2

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
	Male	6,542
	Unassigned	22
Metropolitan	Female	10,589
	Male	30,398
	Unassigned	97
Norfolk	Female	1,470
	Male	2,776
North Wales	Female	1,185
	Male	2,749
	Unassigned	3
North Yorkshire	Female	1,580
	Male	2,989
	Unassigned	1
Northamptonshire	Female	579
	Male	1,685
	Unassigned	1
Northumbria	Female	5,052
	Male	9,808
	Unassigned	4
Nottinghamshire	Female	2,519
	Male	4,716
	Unassigned	4
South Wales	Female	2,093
	Male	4,578
	Unassigned	5
South Yorkshire	Female	3,009
	Male	6,223
	Unassigned	1
Staffordshire	Female	2,084
	Male	4,574
	Unassigned	8
Suffolk	Female	1,333
	Male	2,864
	Unassigned	6
Surrey	Female	1,390
	Male	2,966
	Unassigned	2
Sussex	Female	2,919
	Male	5,477
	Unassigned	2
Thames Valley	Female	3,622

Table 2

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
	Male	7,743
	Unassigned	68
Warwickshire	Female	790
	Male	1,875
	Unassigned	4
West Mercia	Female	2,136
	Male	4,063
	Unassigned	3
West Midlands	Female	6,217
	Male	15,198
	Unassigned	79
West Yorkshire	Female	6,042
	Male	12,172
	Unassigned	16
Wiltshire	Female	1,080
	Male	2,287
	Unassigned	2
Total profiles		337,154
Total estimated individuals		292,313

Table 3

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
Avon and Somerset	Female	3,368
	Male	10,788
	Unassigned	308
Bedfordshire	Female	1,747
	Male	4,919
	Unassigned	218
British Transport	Female	1,119
	Male	6,222
	Unassigned	177
Cambridgeshire	Female	2,333
	Male	6,348
	Unassigned	10
Cheshire	Female	2,883
	Male	9,446
	Unassigned	388
City of London	Female	139
	Male	925
	Unassigned	2
Cleveland	Female	2,223

Table 3

Force	Gender	Total subject profile count
	Male	6,882
	Unassigned	40
Cumbria	Female	1,805
	Male	5,463
	Unassigned	63
Derbyshire	Female	3,392
	Male	10,223
	Unassigned	82
Devon and Cornwall	Female	4,506
	Male	12,912
	Unassigned	88
Dorset	Female	2,049
	Male	5,944
	Unassigned	25
Durham	Female	2,440
	Male	7,323
	Unassigned	5
Dyfed-Powys	Female	1,950
	Male	5,814
	Unassigned	96
Essex	Female	5,540
	Male	16,126
	Unassigned	130
Gloucestershire	Female	1,974
	Male	5,641
	Unassigned	130
Greater Manchester	Female	10,410
	Male	31,740
	Unassigned	401
Gwent	Female	2,193
	Male	7,355
	Unassigned	216
Hampshire	Female	6,453
	Male	18,093
	Unassigned	47
Hertfordshire	Female	3,136
	Male	8,911
	Unassigned	87
Humberside	Female	3,999
	Male	11,616
	Unassigned	56

Table 3

Force	Gender	Total subject profile count
Kent	Female	6,320
	Male	17,169
	Unassigned	443
Lancashire	Female	5,481
	Male	18,092
	Unassigned	48
Leicestershire	Female	2,165
	Male	8,220
	Unassigned	48
Lincolnshire	Female	1,673
	Male	5,246
	Unassigned	42
Merseyside	Female	4,530
	Male	16,257
	Unassigned	134
Metropolitan	Female	23,805
	Male	86,737
	Unassigned	439
Norfolk	Female	2,738
	Male	7,605
	Unassigned	47
North Wales	Female	2,434
	Male	7,506
	Unassigned	84
North Yorkshire	Female	2,306
	Male	6,427
	Unassigned	67
Northamptonshire	Female	1,043
	Male	4,452
	Unassigned	35
Northumbria	Female	8,183
	Male	20,738
	Unassigned	107
Nottinghamshire	Female	4,078
	Male	11,900
	Unassigned	646
South Wales	Female	5,182
	Male	14,611
	Unassigned	142
South Yorkshire	Female	4,688

Table 3

Force	*Gender*	*Total subject profile count*
	Male	14,613
Staffordshire	Female	3,673
	Male	12,164
	Unassigned	51
Suffolk	Female	2,247
	Male	6,093
	Unassigned	260
Surrey	Female	2,220
	Male	7,067
	Unassigned	25
Sussex	Female	4,825
	Male	12,660
	Unassigned	6
Thames Valley	Female	4,916
	Male	15,978
	Unassigned	115
Warwickshire	Female	1,224
	Male	4,029
	Unassigned	36
West Mercia	Female	3,338
	Male	9,827
	Unassigned	54
West Midlands	Female	10,977
	Male	34,249
	Unassigned	1,828
West Yorkshire	Female	9,476
	Male	25,985
	Unassigned	148
Wiltshire	Female	2,150
	Male	6,066
	Unassigned	66
Total profiles		756,937
Total estimated individuals		656,264

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many victims of human trafficking have been rescued by the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit in each of the last two years. [243326]

Jacqui Smith: Figures from the Metropolitan police indicate that in 2007, there were 39 crime reports involving a potential 42 victims of human trafficking. Up to 1 December 2008, there had been 31 reports alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation involving 34 possible victims.

It is not possible to break down the number of victims rescued solely by the activities of the MPS trafficking team, which is one part of the Met's wider commitment to tackling organised immigration crime including human trafficking.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests and *(b)* convictions there have been for human trafficking offences as a result of the activity of the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit in each of the last two years. [243327]

Jacqui Smith: Figures from the Metropolitan police indicate that in 2007-08, the MPS human trafficking unit made a total of 33 arrests for human trafficking offences The figures from the Met indicate that to date there have been eight convictions within the last two years for human trafficking with six others being convicted of related offences such as controlling prostitution.

It is not possible to detail the outcome of all cases as many are still progressing through the criminal justice system.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked children have gone missing from the care of social services in each of the last five years. [243305]

Jacqui Smith: There is no central record of the number of victims of child trafficking who have gone missing from social services over the past five years.

Human Trafficking: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average sentence was for those convicted of human trafficking offences over the last five years. [243300]

Jacqui Smith: The sentences imposed by the courts on those convicted of human trafficking ranges from suspended sentences to 14 years imprisonment.

The average length of sentence however for the offence of human trafficking is 4.69 years although it should be noted in many cases those convicted are serving longer terms of imprisonment as result of convictions for other related offences such as rape, inciting prostitution or immigration related offences.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department plans to charge foreign nationals who *(a)* require and *(b)* do not require a visa for an identity card in each of the next five years. [243297]

Jacqui Smith: The current fee for an application for a foreign national identity card made separately from an immigration application (e.g. for damaged or lost cards) for non-EEA nationals is £30. There is no additional

charge for a foreign national identity card issued as part of a visa application made by a non-EEA national. The cost of making a visa application to enter the UK varies from category to category.

It is intended that the fee for an identity card issued to UK and EEA nationals in 2009-10 will be £30.

We review fees annually to ensure that they continue to contribute to the costs of an application. Fees for future years have not yet been set.

Identity Cards: Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on issuing identity cards with text in both the Welsh and English languages; and what consideration she has given to the proposal. [246603]

Meg Hillier: Ministers are involved in discussions from time to time on many different aspects of the National Identity Scheme, including the format of the identity card. The initial cards issued to British citizens, starting in the second half of 2009 to airside workers at a small number of airports, including Manchester and London City airports, will have headings in English and French. This is in line with travel document standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The issue of Welsh language ID cards has been raised with Ministers by a number of Welsh MPs and at an ID card event in Cardiff in 2008. As a result, officials are in discussions with the Wales Office to see how Welsh language could be included on cards issued to Welsh residents.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal workers are estimated to be residing in the UK. [246238]

Jacqui Smith: Since the abolition of embarkation controls, which started in 1994, no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes those that might be working illegally.

By the end of December 2008, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country.

This is one part of the biggest shake-up of border security and the immigration system in a generation which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The UK Border Agency is committed to tackling illegal migrant working and will act on any intelligence it receives that a business is employing illegal workers. Equally, if an employer is found to be employing an illegal migrant worker and they have not ensured that the person has full entitlement to work in the UK, then they may be subject to a civil penalty of up to £10,000 or, in more serious cases, criminal prosecution. If convicted on indictment, the employer may face an unlimited fine and in some cases, imprisonment for up to two years.

Immigrants: Detainees

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what compensation payments have been made by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* private contractors working for her Department to immigration detainees in (i) response to allegations of unlawful detention, (ii) response to allegations of assault and (iii) total since 2004; and if she will make a statement. [244559]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained through examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to her statement of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 175, what the evidential basis is for the statement that 12 per cent. fewer low-skilled workers from outside the EU would have come to the UK to work last year had Tier 2 of the points-based migration system been in place. [241595]

Jacqui Smith: We expect volumes for Tier 2 General and Intra-Company Transfers (skilled workers within the points-based System) to decrease because of the requirement to satisfy points criteria, such as prospective earnings and qualifications thresholds.

Using data from work permit applications, including on earnings, we estimated that if tighter Tier 2 rules had been in place last year, 12.1 per cent. fewer people from outside EEA would have been allowed into Britain in that category (skilled migrants).

Immigration: English Language

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department made of ETS's performance before approving its test of English as a foreign language for use within the immigration system; and whether any references provided were taken up. [233990]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency undertook an assessment exercise to ensure that all the tests included on the list of approved English language tests for Tier 1 satisfied our required standards of assessment and test security. In support of their application, ETS provided information on:

- Award security features
- Test methodologies
- Test security
- Test verification procedures
- How ETS Mapped their test to the Common European Framework Reference for Languages: Learning, Training, assessment (CEFR)
- How ETS train their test markers and how marking standards are set
- The bona fides of their organisation

The results of ETS's English language tests are recognised by employers and institutions the world wide. However, the actual procurement of testing services is between ETS and the individual applicant taking their test.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to the letter to her of 28 October from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. A. Benmeddall. [241696]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the right hon. Member on 5 January 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers work for the Metropolitan Police human trafficking unit. [243328]

Jacqui Smith: There are 11 police officers working for the MPS human trafficking team.

This team is one part of the Met's wider commitment to tackling organised immigration crime. Other resources targeting these illegal activities, including human trafficking, include local borough policing, Operation Maxim, Swale, Golf, Paladin Child and the Clubs and Vice Unit.

Migration Impacts Forum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are involved in running the Migration Impacts Forum; and what estimate she has made of the costs of running the Forum in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245692]

Mr. Woolas: Four staff from the Home Office and Communities and Local Government jointly provide the secretariat for the MIF, as part of their wider responsibilities. Other staff from a number of Government Departments are involved on an ad hoc basis as required.

The MIF has no running costs other than those of staff time within the Departments and the logistical arrangements of the quarterly MIF meetings. These costs are paid for from within departmental budgets.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former prisoners are employed by her Department; and what her Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246343]

Mr. Woolas: All people who wish to work for the Department are subject to criminal records checks as part of the National Security Vetting (NSV). The Department does not keep figures on how many former prisoners it employs and such staff cannot be distinguished from all other staff who are successfully cleared to work. Obtaining this information could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The policy is that potentially suitable candidates for employment who have a criminal record will not automatically be ruled out from employment with the Home Office. Each candidate is considered on an individual basis, including consideration of severity and timing of convictions.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were removed under the Early Removal Scheme in the last year for which figures are available. [244462]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The information requested is not available and can only be obtained through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost. The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly updated the Home Affairs Select Committee with all of the most robust information available. In her letter of 23 July 2008 she advised the Committee that the agency is now removing or deporting around a fifth of all individuals direct from prison an average of 180 days before their release date. For the remaining individuals it is taking the agency around 130 days, on average, to deport or remove them from the UK. A copy of this letter is available in the Library of the House.

Organised Crime

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to dissuade individuals from joining gangs. [246745]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In September 2007, the Home Secretary set up the Tackling Gangs Action Programme to focus renewed action in neighbourhoods in Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester where guns and gangs have caused serious harm. The initial £1.5 million programme ran for six months to March 2008 but the work is ongoing.

This targeted approach delivered rapid results—a 51 per cent. reduction in firearms-related injuries across the four cities in six months. Recent quarterly statistics show that firearms offences continue to fall, with a reduction of 22 per cent. in April to June 2008 compared with the same period in the previous year.

A further £1 million of funds has been allocated to build on enforcement work, community reassurance and third sector delivery of support in the four TGAP areas. A practical guide was published in May to local partners highlighting examples of good practice on gang prevention. In September, we launched a gangs guide to parents to help prevent their children becoming involved in gangs and due to demand, a further 250,000 are being made available. More recently, £4.5 million of additional funding over the period 2009-12 was announced for local community groups in targeted areas. The new fund will provide grants for intensive work with young people most at risk of gun, gang or knife crime through mentoring and outreach work.

Police

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average crime clear-up rate was in England and Wales in 2007-08, broken down by police force; what assessment she has made of the reasons for differences in such rates between police forces; and if she will make a statement. [244301]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following table. Detections (or 'clear ups') can be subdivided into sanction and non-sanction detections. Sanction detections are now the preferred method, providing a more meaningful comparison of individual force performance. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances. Some forces have already abandoned their use on non-sanction detections altogether. The reductions in the use of non-sanction detections are clearly demonstrated by the figures given in the table.

There are variations in detection rates across police force areas. These variations reflect a range of factors, including differing resources available to investigate crime, varying force priorities and the crime mix within the wider offence groups.

Different offence types have different detection rates so any changes in the 'crime mix' will also affect the overall rates of detection. Furthermore, the most numerous crimes have the greatest influence on overall detection rates. Sanction detections rates for individual offence groups by police force area are published in Table 7.04 of "Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' which is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708chap7.xls

Detection rates by police force area and region, 2007-08[1]

Police force areas, English regions and Wales	*Detection rate*	*Sanction detection rate*
Cleveland	33	33
Durham	29	29
Northumbria	38	38
North East Region	35	35
Cheshire	26	26
Cumbria	38	38
Greater Manchester	25	25
Lancashire	35	35
Merseyside	32	32
North West Region	29	29
Humberside	31	31
North Yorkshire	33	33
South Yorkshire	27	27
West Yorkshire	24	24
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	27	27
Derbyshire	29	29
Leicestershire	27	27
Lincolnshire	28	28
Northamptonshire	25	25
Nottinghamshire	23	23
East Midlands Region	26	26
Staffordshire	28	28
Warwickshire	26	26
West Mercia	29	29
West Midlands	27	27
West Midlands Region	27	27
Bedfordshire	22	22
Cambridgeshire	27	27
Essex	32	32
Hertfordshire	30	30
Norfolk	32	32
Suffolk	30	30
East of England Region	30	29
London, City of	36	36
Metropolitan Police	25	25
London Region	25	25
Hampshire	27	26
Kent	27	27
Surrey	27	27
Sussex	32	32
Thames Valley	25	25
South East Region	27	27
Avon and Somerset	25	25
Devon and Cornwall	28	28
Dorset	27	27
Gloucestershire	32	32
Wiltshire	27	27
South West Region	27	27
Dyfed-Powys	42	42
Gwent	30	30
North Wales	40	40
South Wales	26	26
Wales	31	31
British Transport Police	27	27
England and Wales	28	28

[1] Percentage of offences detected.

Police: Economic Situation

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what projections she has made of trends in the level of demand for police services as a result of the economic downturn; and what consideration she has given to allocating additional resources to police services in this respect. [246954]

Mr. Coaker: Since March 2003, overall crime has fallen by 18 per cent., exceeding the 15 per cent. target set out in the Home Office's public service agreement. That reduction is greater than would have been forecast based on socio-economic factors alone, and we are confident that the right policies and systems are in place to continue to cut crime and that they provide the flexibility needed to respond to future economic challenges.

Decisions on the distribution of local resources in response to varying demands are matters for the chief constable and the police authority for the force concerned.

The three-year funding settlement for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 that we announced last year reflects the Government's continuing commitment to improve policing and reduce crime further. The police service in England and Wales has benefited from a significant increase in resources over a sustained period. On a like-for-like basis Government grant for the police will have increased by over 60 per cent. or over £3.7 billion between 1997-98 and 2010-11.

Repatriation: China

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many repatriations of people from the UK China has *(a)* accepted in each year since 2001 and *(b)* agreed to accept in each of the next four years. [246237]

Jacqui Smith: The information is as follows:

(a) Information on destination data of those removed from the United Kingdom has only been available since 2004.

The figures provided here are the number of Chinese nationals removed to China in each year. Figures include enforced returns, voluntary departures and assisted returns.

	Number
2004	260
2005	460
2006	630
2007	1,065

(b) We do not have an agreement with China that restricts how many returnees will be accepted in coming years.

Seized Articles: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motor cars have been seized wrongly owing to *(a)* inaccuracies in and *(b)* omissions from the Motor Insurers' Database in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by police authority in England. [241519]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not collected centrally. The police are empowered to seize any vehicle where the driver cannot produce a valid certificate of insurance and there are reasonable grounds for believing he or she is driving without appropriate insurance. In forming their opinion the police will typically refer to the Motor Insurers' Database and the dedicated police helpline provided by the Motor Insurance Bureau to help resolve any apparent discrepancy between database information and assertions by the motorist.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases were being investigated by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in which criminal confiscation action had been initiated in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK as at 31 March 2008; what the estimated value of the assets restrained in those cases was; in how many such investigations SOCA has obtained a confiscation order; what the value of assets affected by such orders is; and what the estimated value of assets restrained under such orders is; [243844]

(2) how many criminal investigations were opened by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; what value of assets have been restrained in such cases in each year; in how many such cases assets have been restrained in each year; what estimate has been made of the value of assets under investigation in such cases in each year; how many such cases related to criminal confiscation investigations in each year; and how many such cases resulted in persons being charged in each year. [243790]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) undertakes a range of operational activity in order to fulfil its functions as defined in sections 2 and 3 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. As referred to in its latest annual report, SOCA's contribution to the UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy in the two years since it was formed has been:

2006-07: 404 operations and projects.

2007-08: 459 operations and projects. In addition, as at 31 March 2008 SOCA was undertaking 173 inquiries (single strand investigations).

Operations are multi-faceted and the activity is tailored to that which is most likely to have the greatest impact on harm at the time. During the lifetime of an operation a SOCA investigation may switch between a criminal investigation and an investigation that seeks to disrupt an individual, group, or criminal activity other than by way of a criminal investigation and vice versa, or it may look to prosecute some members of the group and use civil or other powers against others. SOCA does not therefore hold information on the number of separate criminal investigations within operations. Information on the number of arrests and convictions flowing from SOCA's work is set out in the SOCA annual report.

Every SOCA tasked operation will include a financial element and criminal confiscation will be pursued where appropriate. Where SOCA has decided to take forward a criminal confiscation investigation in conjunction with a criminal investigation, these investigations are in persona i.e. against the person not in rem i.e. against the property.

SOCA therefore does not measure each criminal investigation in terms of assets involved, but in terms of the criminal's benefit from their conduct.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines her Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245718]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department published its Overarching Race, Disability and Gender Equality Scheme: Progress Report in May 2008 in which we state that Home Department publications will be produced in accessible formats for disabled people.

Theft

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of *(a)* burglary, *(b)* shoplifting and *(c)* handling of stolen goods were recorded in each of the last three years. [246601]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following table.

Selected offences recorded by the police

Number of offences

Offence	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Burglary	645,068	622,012	583,699
Shoplifting	295,999	294,282	290,625
Handling stolen goods	12,714	11,826	11,227

UK Border Agency: Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Airwave handsets issued to the UK Border Agency have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the Agency have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246188]

Mr. Woolas: Airwave handsets were introduced to the UK Border Agency in 2006. The number of handsets issued to the agency that have been disabled due to loss, or other reasons were: one in 2006; seven in 2007; and one in 2008.

Additionally, the number of handsets that were reported lost, temporarily disabled on network, then subsequently found and reactivated on the network were: four in 2006; 12 in 2007; and two in 2008.

UK Border Agency: Lost Property

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files relating to applications from members of the public have been lost in transit between units of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [241617]

Jacqui Smith: The information is not available in the format requested. If a file is shown as being in transit then it is not deemed to have been lost.

Violent and Sex Offender Register

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* licensed and *(b)* unlicensed taxi drivers are on the National Sex Offenders Register. [244597]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The information requested is not available.

JUSTICE

Airwave Service: Prison Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Airwave headsets issued to HM Prison Service have been lost in each year since their introduction. [246155]

Mr. Malik: No Airwave equipment has been lost by HM Prison Service since its introduction three years ago.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have received the maximum penalty for an offence under section 12(4) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 since the Act came into force. [246861]

Maria Eagle: None.

Constitution: Crown Dependencies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's policy is on the future constitutional relationship between the UK and the Crown Dependencies. [244825]

Mr. Wills: There are no plans for change to the constitutional relationship between the UK and the Crown dependencies.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246014]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is outlined as follows.

(a) Gender

Table A: Number and percentage of staff by gender in the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) as at 30 November 2008

Gender	Total	Percentage
Female	38,715	47.6
Male	42,684	52.4
Grand total	81,399	100

(b) Ethnicity

Table B: Number and percentage of staff by ethnic grouping in the MOJ as at 30 November 2008

Ethnic Grouping	Total	Percentage
Asian or Asian British—Bangladeshi	232	0.3
Asian or Asian British—Indian	1,239	1.8
Asian or Asian British—Other	332	0.5
Asian or Asian British—Pakistani	364	0.5
Black or Black British—African	1,004	1.5
Black or Black British—Caribbean	1,223	1.8
Black or Black British—Other	222	0.3
Chinese or Other—Chinese	72	0.1
Chinese or Other—Other	507	0.7
Mixed—Other	302	0.4
Mixed—White and Asian	177	0.3
Mixed—White and Black African	75	0.1
Mixed—White and Black Caribbean	205	0.3
White—British	32,506	47.7
White—Irish	478	0.7
White—Other	29,280	42.9
Total declared	68,218	83.8
Total undeclared	13,181	16.2

(c) Age

Table C: Number and percentage of staff in the MOJ by age as at 30 November 2008

Age Banding (years)	Total	Percentage
16 to 19	635	0.8
20 to 24	5,109	6.3
25 to 29	8,002	9.8

Table C: Number and percentage of staff in the MOJ by age as at 30 November 2008

Age Banding (years)	Total	Percentage
30 to 34	7,227	8.9
35 to 39	10,020	12.3
40 to 44	13,274	16.3
45 to 49	12,615	15.5
50 to 54	10,464	12.9
55 to 59	8,466	10.4
60 to 64	4,897	6.0
65+	690	0.8
Grand total	81,399	100

(d) Disability

Table D: Number and percentage of staff by declaration of disability in the MOJ as at 30 November 2008

Disability category	Total	Percentage
Declared disabled	2,416	5
Declared non-disabled	45,732	95
Total declared	48,148	59
Total status undeclared/no response	33,251	41

(e) and (f) Sexual Orientation and Religion

We currently collect data on sexual orientation and religion for new recruits and therefore the data only covers a very small proportion of staff. The MOJ is exploring ways in which we can extend this data collection to existing employees in line with the Cabinet Office "Promoting Equality, Valuing Diversity".

Assessment against targets

This is the first set of figures provided for the new Department, which shows good progress towards reflecting the society we serve. The data gathered will be used as a benchmark to assess and measure our continual progress.

The MOJ fully recognises the business case for diversity and is strongly committed to improving the diversity of its people resource. To that end we have in place initiatives designed to help us recruit, develop and retain talented and diverse staff.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recovery notices his Department has issued under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [247171]

Maria Eagle: None. This is an un-commenced piece of legislation, which would be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

Driving Offences: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* fined for speeding in (i) Stockport Metropolitan Borough, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) the North West in each of the last five years. [246077]

Maria Eagle: Speeding offences, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regulations 1973, can be dealt with by way of written warnings, court proceedings or the issuing of a fixed penalty notice.

Available information collected centrally on the Court Proceedings Database, held by the Ministry of Justice, on the number of persons given a court fine for speed limit offences within the Greater Manchester police force area and the North West region from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is provided as follows in table 1.

Information collected centrally by the Home Office on the number of fixed penalty notices issued for speeding offences, by area, for the period 2002 to 2006 is contained in table 2. Data for 2007 are due to be published in the spring of 2009.

Formal cautions are not given for motoring offences.

Data collected centrally are available at police force area level only.

Table 1: Number of magistrates courts imposed fines[1] for speed limit offences[2] within the Greater Manchester police force area, and the north west region[3], 2003 to 2007[4, 5]

	Area	Number of offences Number of fines[1]
2003	Greater Manchester	6,265
	North West Region	19,025
2004	Greater Manchester	4,745
	North West Region	17,187
2005	Greater Manchester	7,220
	North West Region	17,983
2006	Greater Manchester	6,699
	North West Region	19,201
2007	Greater Manchester	4,521
	North West Region	20,600

[1] Magistrates courts data only. Fines given at the Crown Court total nationally (England and Wales) less than 10 each year.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ss. 16, 81, 84, 86, 88 & 89; Motor Vehicles (Speed Limit on Motorways) Regs. 1973; Parks Regulation (Amendment) Act 1926—byelaws made thereunder.
[3] Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.
[4] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] in Greater Manchester and the north west local government office region, 2002 to 2006

Police force area	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004	2005	2006
					Number of offences
Greater Manchester	35,861	44,903	43,531	59,478	60,282

Table 2: Fixed penalty notices issued[1] for speed limit offences[2] in Greater Manchester and the north west local government office region, 2002 to 2006

					Number of offences
Police force area	*2002*[3]	*2003*[3]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North west region[4]	219,883	204,702	186,659	193,954	211,582

[1] Only covers notices paid where there is no further action.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Motor Vehicles (Speed Limits on Motorways) Regulations 1973.
[3] Revised since original publication following amendments received from forces.
[4] Includes following police force areas: Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:
Home Office Statistics.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people resident in *(a)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West were (i) arrested under suspicion and (ii) convicted of driving when drunk in each quarter of the last five years. [246078]

Maria Eagle: The number of convictions, at all courts, for offences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs for the years 2003 to 2007, by area, is contained in the following table. Data provided covers both drink and drugs offences combined as volumes of prosecutions and convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs cannot be accurately established separately.

Information is available on a calendar year basis and at police force area level only. It does not identify where those convicted are resident.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Offences relating to drink driving are non notifiable and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], within the Greater Manchester police force area, and the north west region, 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

					Number of offences
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Greater Manchester	4,743	4,811	4,653	4,570	4,462
North west region[4]	12,830	13,401	12,902	12,807	12,431

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot be reliably distinguished separately).
[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[4] Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

HM Courts Service: Hampshire

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many vacancies there were in *(a)* the Courts Service and *(b)* the Bailiff Service (i) on the Isle of Wight and (ii) in Hampshire in each of the last five years. [246148]

Bridget Prentice: External recruitment for all permanent staff in Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) is managed through a central resourcing unit. This unit has been involved in filling external vacancies throughout the period in question. Firstly, for the former Court Service, which includes the bailiffs and following the creation of HMCS, it has also dealt with vacancies in the former magistrates courts. The following vacancies have been handled during the last five years for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area.

In 2004, there were 22 vacancies filled through the central unit and one of these was for a bailiff in Hampshire. There were no vacancies on the Isle of Wight.

In 2005, there were 35 vacancies in total. In Hampshire there were 33 general vacancies and one vacancy for a bailiff. There was one general vacancy on the Isle of Wight.

In 2006, there were 21 vacancies in total. In Hampshire there were 18 general vacancies and one vacancy for a bailiff post. There were two general vacancies on the Isle of Wight.

In 2007, there were 33 vacancies in total. In Hampshire there were 30 general vacancies and one vacancy for a bailiff post. There were two general vacancies on the Isle of Wight.

For the current year, a total of 49 posts have been handled by the unit. In Hampshire there have been 45 general vacancies and two vacancies for bailiffs. In addition, they have dealt with one general vacancy and one bailiff vacancy for the Isle of Wight.

Prisons: Population

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the projected prison population is for each month of *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [247077]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice produces annual projections of the prison population, most recently in September 2008.

These project the prison population under three different scenarios, based on different assumptions about future sentencing trends: the medium scenario assumes no increases or decreases in custody rates or determinate sentence lengths. The high/low scenarios reflect a 1 per cent. per annum increase/decrease in custody rates and a 0.5 per cent. per annum increase/decrease in the average (determinate) custodial sentence lengths.

Other impacts included in the projections, such as those of legislation and processes, are applied equally to all scenarios. These cover the anticipated impacts of policy and process initiatives that have agreed implementation timetables.

	High	*Medium*	*Low*
April 2009	84,900	83,400	82,600
May 2009	84,200	83,400	82,600
June 2009	85,100	84,300	83,300
July 2009	86,100	85,200	84,200
August 2009	85,400	84,500	83,600
September 2009	85,900	84,800	83,600

	High	Medium	Low
October 2009	86,400	85,300	84,000
November 2009	86,400	85,200	83,800
December 2009	84,700	83,400	81,900
January 2010	85,800	84,500	82,900
February 2010	86,100	84,700	83,000
March 2010	87,300	85,800	84,100
April 2010	87,500	85,900	84,100
May 2010	87,500	85,900	84,000
June 2010	88,100	86,400	84,400
July 2010	88,600	86,800	84,800
August 2010	88,900	87,100	84,900
September 2010	89,300	87,400	85,200
October 2010	89,400	87,500	85,200
November 2010	89,400	87,300	85,000
December 2010	86,600	84,500	82,100
January 2011	88,800	86,600	84,200
February 2011	89,700	87,400	84,800
March 2011	89,700	87,400	84,700

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Data are given for the last day of each month.

More details on the projections may be found in the latest published bulletin 'Prison Population Projections 2008-2015', Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 18 September 2008. This is available at the following webpage:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonpopulation.htm

Probation Service for England and Wales

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of converting probation boards into probation trusts; what will happen to a probation board if it fails to convert into a probation trust within the required timescale; and if he will make a statement. [246926]

Mr. Hanson: The advantages of the creation of probation trusts were discussed through public consultation in 2005, during the passage of the Offender Management Act in 2007 and most recently in the analysis of probation services conducted by KPMG on behalf of the NOMS agency. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams) on 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 797W. Probation trusts will be contracted to provide services which reflect local needs and which have a clear focus on the achievement of outcomes. They will deliver services in partnership with providers from the private or voluntary and community sector based on the application of 'best value' principles and processes.

From April 2010, probation services will be provided by trusts delivering to contract or other providers following competition. We are currently developing the policy on what will happen to those boards who fail to become trusts, further details will be available by spring 2009.

HEALTH

British Dental Association

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings Ministers in his Department have held with *(a)* the British Dental Association and *(b)* other dental organisations in the last 12 months. [246624]

Ann Keen: I have met formally twice with representatives of the British Dental Association, and once with the Chair and Chair Elect of the National Conference of Local Dental Committees over the past 12 months.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made towards establishing a National Cancer Intelligence Network; and what priorities for *(a)* routine analyses at a national level and *(b)* research have been determined. [247100]

Ann Keen: The National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) was launched in June 2008. Its aim is to promote efficient and effective data collection at each stage of the cancer journey, and to co-ordinate the analysis and publication of comparative national statistics on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for all types of cancer.

The core objectives of the NCIN are:

promoting efficient and effective data collection throughout the cancer journey;

providing a common national repository for cancer datasets;

producing expert analyses, based on robust methodologies, to monitor patterns of cancer care;

exploiting information to drive improvements in standards of cancer care and clinical outcomes; and

enabling use of cancer information to support audit and research programmes.

Chapter 8 of the first annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy, 'Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report', published on 1 December 2008, contains information about the NCIN's progress and priorities. This document has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress National Health Service cancer screening programmes have made towards encouraging the sharing of best practice in improving accessibility for all groups. [247103]

Ann Keen: National health service (NHS) cancer screening programmes have funded several projects around improving access to cancer screening. These include a digital video disc (DVD) on bowel cancer screening in collaboration with the South Asian Health Foundation and a DVD in sign language. Promotional materials for the bowel cancer screening programme are available on the NHS cancer screening programme's website for local services to rework as appropriate for their local populations. NHS cancer screening programmes have also produced a guidance document, 'Equal Access to Breast and Cervical Screening for Disabled Women', which is available on their website at:

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/publications/cc2.html.

A copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS cancer screening programmes are represented on the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI) Advisory Group. The NCEI was set up as part of the implementation of the Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), to take forward a series of actions to reduce inequalities in cancer care. The NCEI is initially focusing on optimising data collection to enhance our understanding of the inequalities that exist; promoting research to fill gaps in the evidence; and spreading and sustaining good practice in NHS organisations. The NCEI has undertaken a good practice survey to identify current projects aiming to reduce inequalities in cancer care, including cancer screening. The principles behind undertaking robust projects to reduce cancer inequalities, including examples from the survey, will be issued to the NHS later this year.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to move to an activity-based system for funding cervical cancer screening services. [247104]

Ann Keen: The decision has been taken to explore having a tariff for cervical screening, along with breast and bowel screening, to incentivise services to encourage higher coverage. The Department is working closely with national health service cancer screening programmes on a scoping exercise to inform this work.

Childbirth

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mothers had babies delivered at NHS hospitals in each district of the Yorkshire and Humberside strategic health authority area in each of the last five years. [245669]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held in the format required.

However, information on total delivery episodes within Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority area (SHA), broken down by national health service trust, 2002-03 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table:

NHS provider	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Airedale NHS Trust	2,394	2,505	2,389	2,256	2,194
Barnsley District General Hospital NHS Trust	2,571	2,399	2,317	2,295	2,164
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	5,746	5,889	5,690	5,305	5,240
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	5,441	5,436	5,417	5,373	4,992
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	5,022	4,937	4,915	4,617	4,449
Harrogate Health Care NHS Trust	1,713	1,678	1,641	1,576	1,582
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	5,394	5,072	5,064	4,981	4,683
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	8,786	8,466	8,225	7,963	7,369
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	6,389	6,258	6,081	6,015	5,689
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	4,398	4,379	4,156	3,939	3,787
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	2,682	2,650	2,557	2,529	2,474
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	6,530	6,365	6,194	6,163	5,869
York Hospitals NHS Trust	3,242	3,032	3,127	2,861	2,829

Notes: The NHS Information Centre reports that the figures provided for Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust have been redacted from the table because they appear to be significantly lower than reported. The NHS Information Centre and the Yorkshire and Humber SHA have been asked to investigate this.

Small numbers: To protect patient confidentiality, trusts with less than five deliveries have been removed. *Unprocessed data:* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are unprocessed).

Data quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvements over time, some shortcomings remain. *Assessing growth through time:* HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Coverage and data quality: The maternity tail data coverage is not as complete as the rest of HES data. There are a number of reasons for the coverage and data quality issues such as:

trusts submitting a significantly higher number of delivery episodes compared to birth episodes;

trusts failing to submit data on the number of birth episodes where they record a high number of delivery episodes;

trusts failing to submit delivery—the reason for this is that approximately 20 trusts have a standalone maternity system which is not linked to the Patient Administration System;

trusts identifying a high number of maternity beds available, but not recording any information about deliveries or births;

trusts identifying that they have no maternity beds available, but recording a high number of birth and delivery episodes; and

some trusts have space in their maternity system to record nine birth tails, whereas other systems have space for 10. As deliveries, miscarriages and abortions are all recorded in the birth tail, there are cases where nine tails is not enough to record all of the relevant data . Between 2001-02 and 2005-06, coverage of hospital deliveries was 72.6 per cent. on average, whereas that of home deliveries was 13.6 per cent. on average. The incomplete coverage problem is significantly compounded by the data quality issues outlined above.

Finished Consultant Delivery Episode (FCE): A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes.

Maternity events taking place in either NHS hospitals or in non-NHS hospitals funded by the NHS will be recorded as ordinary "Delivery" episodes.

"Other Delivery events" are delivery events other than those resulting in delivery or birth episodes under NHS funding or in any other facility supplied under a service agreement with the NHS.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mothers had babies delivered at *(a)* Leeds General Infirmary and *(b)* St. James's Hospital in each month of the last two years. [245670]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the total deliveries[1] for Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust broken down by month the episode ended[2].

	2006-07	2005-06
Total deliveries	8,786	8,468
April	711	700
May	748	731
June	731	662
July	763	788
August	786	668
September	746	707
October	759	736
November	705	692
December	753	740
January	706	667
February	635	641
March	743	736

Notes:

1.
Finished Consultant Delivery Episode
(FCE): A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. We have provided a count of total deliveries measured by delivery episode and other delivery event:
maternity events taking place in either national health service (NHS) hospitals or in non-NHS hospitals funded by the NHS will be recorded as ordinary "Delivery".
"other Delivery events" are delivery events other than those resulting in delivery or birth episodes under NHS funding or in any other facility supplied under a service agreement with the NHS.
Coverage and data quality
the maternity tail data coverage is not as complete as the rest of HES data. There are a number of reasons for the coverage and data quality issues such as:
trusts submitting a significantly higher number of delivery episodes compared to birth episodes
trusts failing to submit data on the number of birth episodes where they record a high number of delivery episodes
trusts failing to submit delivery—the reason for this is that approximately 20 trusts have a standalone maternity system which is not linked to the Patient Administration System
trusts identifying a high number of maternity beds available, but not recording any information about deliveries or births
trusts identifying that they have no maternity beds available, but recording a high number of birth and delivery episodes
some trusts have space in their maternity system to record nine birth tails, whereas other systems have space for 18. As deliveries, miscarriages and abortions are all recorded on the birth tail, there are cases where nine tails is not enough to record all of the relevant data.
Between 2001-02 and 2005-06, coverage of hospital deliveries was 72.6 per cent. on average, whereas that of home deliveries was 13.6 per cent. on average. The incomplete coverage problem is significantly compounded by the data quality issues outlined above.

2.
Date episode ended
—This field contains the date on which a patient left the care of a particular consultant, for one of the following reasons: discharged from hospital (includes transfers) or moved to the care of another consultant.
A null entry either indicates that the episode was unfinished at the end of the data year, or the date was unknown.
Unproved data
—Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data,
i.e.
the data are unproved.
Data quality
—HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Quality of care
—Data derived from HES cannot be used in isolation to evaluate the quality of care provided by NHS trusts or clinical teams. There are many factors that can affect the outcome of treatment and it is beyond the scope of HES to adequately record and reflect all of these.
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what indicators his Department uses to evaluate the oral health of patients in England; [246776]

(2) what assessment he has made of the relative level of oral health in England in comparison with previous years; [246777]

(3) what steps he is taking to improve the oral health of patients in England. [246778]

Ann Keen: The key indicators that we use are the average number of decayed, missing and filled teeth (DMFT) in children and the number of adults with no natural teeth. Information from the decennial national child dental health surveys shows that DMFT in 12-year-old children in England declined from 5.0 in 1973 to 0.7 in 2003, which means that children in this age group are among children with the best oral health in Europe. Meanwhile the adult surveys show that between in 1968 and 1998 the proportion of adults with no natural teeth fell from 37 per cent. to 11 per cent. However, we are not complacent. AH primary care trusts (PCTs) are required to undertake an assessment of the oral health needs of their populations to inform their commissioning of primary care dental services. In September 2007, we published 'Delivering Better Oral Health: An evidence-based toolkit for prevention', which provides practical, evidence-based guidance to help dental teams promote oral

health and prevent dental disease. A copy has already been placed in the Library. During 2008, the Chief Dental Officer and other leading members of the dental profession contributed to three regional conferences for PCTs and dental care professionals on implementation of the toolkit. Also, through reforms made to the legislation governing the fluoridation of water, we have given communities with high levels of dental disease a real option of having their water fluoridated.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he gave to appointing a practising NHS community dentist to the Independent Group to review NHS dentistry; and if he will make a statement. [246791]

Ann Keen: One of the four review members is a practicing dentist in the community dental service delivering primary care dental services. The four members of the review are drawn from differing backgrounds. Their role is not to represent their 'sector' but to listen to the views of all parties and to look more strategically at the issues affecting national health service dental services and NHS patients.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of undertaking the review of NHS dentistry in England; and if he will make a statement. [246867]

Ann Keen: We are not at this point attempting to fix the final costs of the review as this will depend on the work Professor Steele and his team decide to undertake. However, our initial estimates of the additional costs of the review are around £250,000.

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 have been diagnosed with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [247317]

Ann Keen: Data for the number of children of school age diagnosed with diabetes are not available. However, estimates suggest there are some 20,000 children with diabetes in England (the vast majority type 1 diabetes), and some experts suggest that there may be up to 1,000 children with type 2 diabetes in England.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1898W, on drugs: misuse, how many people were discharged from treatment for drug misuse, broken down by discharge reason, in 2007-08; how many people left treatment in 2007-08; and how many people returned to drug treatment having previously been discharged as having *(a)* completed treatment, *(b)* completed treatment drug free and *(c)* completed treatment and been referred on. [247442]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the number of individuals discharged from structured treatment for drug misuse, by discharge reason, for 2007-08. These data are taken from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) statistical release 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, published by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA).

Discharge reason	*Percentage*	*Number*
Treatment completed drug free	11	7,324
Treatment completed	25	17,306
Referred on	16	10,811
Total Successful Discharges	51	35,441
Dropped out/left	28	19,591
Prison	6	4,240
Other	4	2,817
Treatment declined by client	3	2,169
Treatment withdrawn/breach of contract	3	2,078
Moved away	2	1,605
Died	1	784
Not known[1]	1	520
No appropriate treatment available	1	367
Total (individuals discharged)	—	69,612
Missing/inconsistent data	—	30
Total including missing/ inconsistent data	—	69,642

[1] That is where agency staff indicated that they did not know the reason for discharge

Data on individuals in structured drug and alcohol treatment are collected by the NTA via the NDTMS, using the following definitions for successful discharge reasons:

'Treatment completed drug free' refers to an individual, who the treatment provider believes has completed their treatment no longer dependent on their drug of misuse and is not using any other illegal drugs.

'Treatment completed' refers to an individual, who the treatment provider believes has completed their treatment no longer dependent on their drug of misuse, but who may be using drugs in a non-dependent way.

'Referred on' refers to an individual who, on completion of a Tier 3 or 4 service, is transferred to a Tier 2 service or support services such as housing support or employment support.

Information on the number of individuals who have re-entered structured drug treatment, after having been discharged from structured treatment for drug misuse, is not routinely calculated.

Health Education: Parents

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parentcraft sessions were provided at *(a)* Leeds General Infirmary and *(b)* St James's Hospital in each month of the last two years. [245665]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Department advocates local decision making in designing appropriate services that fit with the ethos of woman-centred care, including the way in which parentcraft classes are provided locally.

Health Profesions: Manpower

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals qualified as medical staff in the UK in each year since 1997; and what proportion of these currently work in the NHS. [247167]

Ann Keen: The number of individuals who graduated medical education each year since 1997 is shown in the following table. However figures for UK graduates prior to 2000-01 are not available.

Academic year	*Graduate output (England)*	*Graduate output (UK)*
1997-98	3,261	—
1998-99	3,097	—
1999-2000	3,373	—
2000-01	3,286	4,269
2001-02	3,280	4,450
2002-03	3,522	4,641
2003-04	3,734	4,805
2004-05	3,935	5,176
2005-06	4,376	5,576
2006-07	4,904	6,208
2007-08	5,569	6,873

It is not possible to say what proportion currently work in the national health service as this information is not collected. However, the following table shows the number of house officers/foundation one posts since 1997. These figures show that there has been sufficient opportunities in the NHS to meet the medical school outputs.

House officer and foundation programme year 1

	Number
1997	3,398
1998	3,496
1999	3,606
2000	3,691
2001	3,742
2002	4,010
2003	4,003
2004	4,273
2005	4,663
2006	4,905
2007	5,240

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he was first informed by the NHS Information Centre of the publication of data relating to patients attending hospital with knife wounds, provided to 10 Downing Street. [247624]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 162W.

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged between 14 and 18 years had a profound and multiple learning disability in each of the last five years. [245998]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Maternity Services

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what external *(a)* inspection and *(b)* monitoring of maternity care at (i) Leeds General Infirmary and (ii) St. James's Hospital has taken place in the last two years; what recommendations were made; and if he will make a statement. [245662]

Ann Keen: There have been three external reports into maternity services at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in the last two years. These include the Yorkshire and the Humber Local Supervising Authority Supervision and Midwifery Practice Audit 2007-08, the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) pilot assessment against the revised CNST Maternity Clinical Risk Management Standards in September 2008 and the Healthcare Commission Review of Maternity Services 2007.

Full copies of the resulting reports can be obtained direct from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

It is the responsibility of strategic health authorities to performance manage primary care trusts and NHS trusts on behalf of the Department against local operational plans.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints on maternity care provided at *(a)* Leeds General Infirmary and *(b)* St. James's Hospital have been received by (i) Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and (ii) his Department in each month of the last two years. [245664]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information about complaints received at individual NHS organisations. This information can be obtained from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust directly.

Due to the way in which correspondence is logged, details regarding complaints received by the Department about maternity services at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Midwives

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which districts in the Yorkshire and Humberside strategic health authority area *(a)* have and *(b)* have not achieved the Healthcare Commission's recommended ratio of midwives to deliveries. [245666]

Ann Keen: Strategic health authority maternity workforce plans are based on delivering safe care and their commitment to Maternity Matters (published on 3 April 2007), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. Safe levels of midwives to births will vary according to variations such as case mix, local models of service delivery and staffing skill mix.

Mr. Truswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many full-time equivalent midwife agency staff have been employed at *(a)* Leeds General Infirmary and *(b)* St. James's Hospital in each month of the last two years; [245667]

(2) how many full-time equivalent midwives were in post at *(a)* Leeds General Infirmary and *(b)* St. James's Hospital in each month of the last two years. [245668]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number

of qualified midwives and bank staff in the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each specified year.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS trust

		Full-time equivalent
	Midwives	*Of which: bank*
2005	309	—
2006	220	5
2007	287	5

Notes:
1. The figures above reflect data as published each year. However, 2006 data needs to be treated with caution. During the validation process for the 2007 NHS workforce census, Leeds Teaching Hospitals reported that its registered midwives for 2006 should have been 267 and not 215 (excluding bank) as submitted at the time.
2. Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Data Quality: Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on the process for appointing the new Strategic Health Authority Medical Directors as announced in the NHS Next Stage Review, High Quality Care for All, published on 30 June 2008. [245624]

Ann Keen: The strategic health authorities are making good progress in providing the medical leadership described in 'High quality care for all' and we expect that all will have a medical director in post by April 2009.

NHS: Statistics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that incomplete or unvalidated data returns for NHS bodies made available to Government departments are not used publicly by those departments. [247625]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 167-68W.

Patients: Safety

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 519-22W, on NHS: personal records, how many nutrition-related adverse incidents were recorded in each month between January 2005 and December 2007 in each NHS trust. [246405]

Ann Keen: For the period between January 2005 and December 2007, it is estimated that there have been around 68,148 nutrition-related adverse incidents recorded on the reporting and learning system (RLS) at strategic health authority (SHA) level.

Detailed information on the type and size of incidents is not held or analysed centrally by the Department or the National Patient Safety Agency and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost due to the complexity associated with processing 36 months of data by each trust.

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed as *(a)* managers and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each primary care trust in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [246558]

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of people that were employed as: managers and senior managers; nurses and midwives; and administrative and clerical staff in each primary care trust as at 30 September 2006 and 2007 has been placed in the Library. The data for 2008 will be published during March 2009.

Quality and Outcomes Framework

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent consideration his Department has given to the variability of rates of exception reporting on quality and outcomes framework (QOF) indicator CHD 08; what his assessment is of the reasons for the range in rates of exception reporting for QOF indicator CHD 08 in each year since the introduction of the framework; and if he will make a statement. [245880]

Ann Keen: Practices with extremely low or high rates, generally have small numbers of patients. For example, if there is only one patient and that patient is exception reported, then the rate will be 100 per cent. If that patient is not exception reported the rate will be 0 per cent. The highest exception rate for practices with substantial numbers of patients are almost always substantially below 100 per cent.

The exception rate for coronary heart disease (CHD) 8 for England in 2007-08 was 8.96 per cent. (compared with a rate of 5.26 per cent. across all indicators). The interquartile range of practice level exception rates for CHD 08 was 5.21 per cent. to 11.28 per cent.

There is evidence that some practices, whether in deprived or more affluent areas, are using exception reporting inappropriately. Manipulating quality and outcomes framework (QOF) data in order to increase rewards without delivering the required level of quality for patients is clearly unacceptable—and also unfair on the majority of practices who comply with QOF requirements. Primary care trusts are responsible for verifying evidence of achievement. They should analyse exception rates and recorded prevalence, investigating any outliers, correcting payments where necessary and taking action if they uncover any actual fraud.

The Government are committed to ensuring in consultation with the profession, that QOF continually develops and supports leading edge quality of care for patients based on best available evidence. We will look at exception reporting and prevalence recording patterns as part of that process.

A copy of a list of exception reporting by practice on CHD has been placed in the Library.

Shingles

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over 50 years of age were diagnosed with shingles in each of the last five years. [247534]

Dawn Primarolo: Shingles is not a notifiable disease and the Health Protection Agency does not undertake national surveillance of shingles. Data are available from some sentinel surveillance systems such as the General Practice Research Database (GPRD). A recently published study ("Epidemiology and cost of herpes zoster and post-herpetic neuralgia in the United Kingdom") using data from the GPRD between January 2000 and the end of March 2006 reported an estimated 88,667 shingles cases in England per year in the population aged 50 and above.

Tobacco: Sales

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate the Government has made of the cost to small businesses of proposals to remove cigarette displays in shops. [247326]

Dawn Primarolo: The "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" included a consultation-stage impact assessment that calculated the costs and benefits of removing tobacco displays. This document can be viewed in the consultation document, which has been placed in the Library and is available online at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations/DH_085120.

A revised regulatory impact assessment, taking into account additional information and evidence received during the consultation process, will be published when the Health Bill is introduced.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in which NHS trusts have transplant operations been performed on foreign nationals in the last 12 months; which organs or tissues were transplanted in each case; and how the *(a)* trust and *(b)* NHS were remunerated for the procedure; [246830]

(2) whether NHS trusts may refuse to perform transplants for *(a)* non-UK citizens and *(b)* nationals of EU member states; [246831]

(3) whether foreign nationals receiving transplants in the UK receive organs and tissues *(a)* from their country of origin, *(b)* from the UK and *(c)* from other countries; [246832]

(4) how many organs the NHS received from abroad in each of the last 10 years; and how many were successfully transplanted. [246833]

Ann Keen: Departmental Directions, issued in September 2005 by authority of the Secretary of State for Health under section 17 of the National Health Service Act 1977 to NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), specify that priority for transplants should be given to group 1 patients (mainly people ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom or in countries with which the UK has reciprocal health arrangements) rather than group 2 (those not in group 1). Group 1 includes European Union residents. Group 2 patients are only entitled to an organ if there is no one in group 1 who is clinically suitable. It is the responsibility of the consultant registering each patient for transplant to confirm eligibility, and NHSBT and/or transplant centres are then responsible for ensuring organs are correctly allocated based on eligibility information supplied.

The transplantation of donated organs into non-UK EU residents who qualify for NHS treatment is guided by European law, which effectively regards such patients as having equal access to the NHS. Decisions over accepting a patient on to the transplant waiting list rests with the individual transplant centre. Article 3 of Regulation 1408/71 provides for equality of treatment under the regulation. Therefore health care should be provided in the UK to another European economic area national on the same basis as it would be to a UK national. Under EU Regulation 1408/71 a citizen of a member state can seek prior authorisation (via an E112) from their health authorities to go to another member state for planned state-sector treatment. The decision about whether to authorise a referral is a clinical one by that citizen's member state, taking into account factors such as whether undue delay applies or whether it is a specialist treatment that the home state cannot supply. The citizen's member state covers the cost of the referral.

Patients receiving transplants in the UK would normally receive organs from UK donors. The exception to this would be organs supplied from elsewhere in the EU under reciprocal arrangements which exist to offer organs to other member states if there is no clinically suitable patient in the member state of origin.

Table 1 shows organs received from non-UK hospitals imported into UK hospitals and transplanted between 1998 to 2008.

Table 2 shows organ and ocular tissue transplants in the UK between 1998 to 2008, by trust of transplanting hospital, where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK.

Table 1: Organs from non-UK hospitals into UK hospitals, in the last 10 years

	Organs	
	Imported	*Transplanted*
1998-99	42	38
1999-2000	14	14
2000-01	6	6
2001-02	10	10
2002-03	15	13
2003-04	4	3
2004-05	12	12
2005-06	24	21
2006-07	9	9
2007-08	4	3
Total	140	129

Table 2: Organ and (ocular)[1] tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[2], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008

	Deceased donor							Living donor		
Trust	*Kidney*	*Heart*	*Lung(s)*	*Heart/ lungs*	*Liver*	*Cornea*	*Sclera*	*Kidney*	*Liver*	*Total*
Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	6
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	155	1	—	—	1	157
Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	[2]20	—	—	—	—	20
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	—	[3]1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
St. Mary's NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	4
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	97	—	—	2	2	101
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Barts and the London NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	1	3	—	—	—	3	2	12	—	21
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	22	7	—	—	29
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	8
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	10
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	6
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	[4]289	—	—	—	68	357
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	7
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
North Bristol NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	4	—	40
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

Table 2: Organ and (ocular)[1] tissue transplants in the UK where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK[2], by trust of transplanting hospital, April 1998 to March 2008

	Deceased donor							Living donor		
Trust	*Kidney*	*Heart*	*Lung(s)*	*Heart/ lungs*	*Liver*	*Cornea*	*Sclera*	*Kidney*	*Liver*	*Total*
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Lothian University Hospital NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Tayside University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	5	4	1	3	603	57	9	42	71	795

[1] Ocular tissue is the only tissue which is traced back to a patient. Residents of the Republic of Ireland are not included in these figures.
[2] Includes one liver/kidney/pancreas transplant.
[3] 'Domino' donor.
[4] Includes one liver/kidney transplant.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Corporate Communications

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to Corporate Communications in each of the last five years. [245038]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has made the following payments to the Central Office of Information for work undertaken by its corporate communications section in the last five years:

	£
	Amount (excluding VAT)
2003-04	0
2004-05	35,975
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	29,270

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many external consultants work for his Department. [244728]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the 2007-08 financial year, the Department for International Development (DFID) engaged 201 external consultants centrally. This figure includes contracts with profit and non profit companies, Civil Society Organisations, universities and research institutes. It does not include consultants engaged directly by DFID Departments or overseas offices under delegated contracting authority, as to compile this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Contracts

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department had made on behalf of CDC to *(a)* LM, *(b)* Financial Dynamics, *(c)* Cubitt Consulting, *(d)* Bell Pottinger and *(e)* Merlin in each of the last five years; and what the purpose of each payment was. [244822]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development has made no payments on behalf of CDC to any of the companies listed in the last five years.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Cabinet Office publishes an annual report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to letters from Members and Peers. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated.

In respect of e-mails received by DFID, it is not possible to provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost.

DFID also publishes information on letters and e-mails from members of the public and organisations in its Annual Report. Information relating to 2007 is available to view in section 10.12 at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/departmental-report/2008/Chapter10.pdf

Departmental Databases

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of contents of his Department's PRISM database. [245233]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A copy of the list of contents of DFID's PRISM database will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244614]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government's Delivery Plan for 'Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate', published in August 2008, provides

a full account of the initiatives departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the delivery plan on a six monthly basis, and the first of these updates was published on 18 December 2008.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [244729]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Statistics for the main Department for International Development (DFID) website for 2007-08:

Page views: 5,617,604

Unique visitors: 898,012

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website for the 2007-08 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2008-09 financial year. [244865]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Website	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	DFID main site (www.dfid.gov.uk)	120,420
2008-09		130,423

Departmental Publications

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Selby of 6 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 768W, if he will place in the Library a copy of the corporate communications strategy. [245031]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2005 Strategy referred to by the hon. Member has been superseded by the September 2008 publication "Communication Matters". This is available on the DFID website, and a copy will be placed in the Library.

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/commsstrategy.pdf

Departmental Recruitment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason the targets for the recruitment of *(a)* women to top management posts, *(b)* ethnic minority staff and *(c)* disabled staff in his Department differ from those set for the Civil Service overall. [244907]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) values diversity and is committed to ensuring that this is reflected in our recruitment and selection processes. DFID welcome applications for posts from all parts of the community. In accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code selection is on merit following fair and open competition. We do not set specific targets for recruitment.

Developing Countries: Drownings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what work his Department has undertaken to reduce deaths by drowning in the developing world; and if he will make a statement; [245250]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of deaths by drowning in the developing world in the latest period for which figures are available. [245251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no specific programmes targeted to reduce the number of deaths by drowning. However, DFID makes significant investments in public health and education in developing countries, both of which will help improve accident prevention.

The UK Government do not make its own estimates of cause-specific mortality. The World Health Organisation (WHO) publishes information on cause-specific mortality for countries, regions and globally. The latest available estimates are for 2002 and show that an estimated 376,000 people drowned, making it the third leading cause of unintentional injury death globally after road traffic injuries and falls. These global burden of disease figures are an under-estimate of all drowning deaths, since they exclude drowning due to floods (cataclysms), boating and water transport. The vast majority (approximately 97 per cent.) of all drowning deaths occurred in low and middle-income countries.

Overseas Aid: Emergency Services

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the reasons were for the decision that search and rescue capability for disasters overseas will be provided to his Department by UK fire and rescue services; and if he will place in the Library the terms of the agreement between his Department and UK fire and rescue services on the provision of this service. [244758]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) needed to streamline its working arrangements with UK voluntary search and rescue groups, and place our partnership with them for humanitarian services on a similar footing to the arrangements we have with other humanitarian organisations. The voluntary groups were unable to reach agreement. However, we still needed to find a more efficient and workable arrangement and agreed with the UK Fire and Rescue Service that it would take over responsibility for organising the overseas search and rescue capability we require in disaster response, including supplementing its capacity by commissioning voluntary groups as and when required.

The terms of this agreement are set out in correspondence between DFID and the UK Fire and Rescue Service, copies of which I will place in the Library.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the meetings that officials from his Department have had with *(a)* the UK International Search and Rescue Group and *(b)* UK fire and rescue services on the provision of overseas search and rescue services in the last 12 months. [244759]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID officials met the UK International Search and Rescue Group (UKISARG), with colleagues from the UK Fire and Rescue Service, on 9 and 31 January, 4 March and 6 June 2008. DFID and UK Fire and Rescue Service colleagues additionally met once in the summer of 2008 and again on 8 October and 6 November 2008.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what processes are in place to co-ordinate the *(a)* overall management and *(b)* operational management of overseas search and rescue services between his Department and UK fire and rescue services. [244760]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have agreed that the DCLG UK Fire and Rescue Service will supply, co-ordinate and manage UK search and rescue operations if required by DFID in its overseas disaster response. The UK Fire and Rescue Service may draw on the services of UK voluntary search and rescue groups if required.

DFID retains overall lead on overseas disaster response, tasking and giving strategic direction to the UK Fire and Rescue Service for any search and rescue component.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish a breakdown by main budget heading of his Department's expenditure on overseas search and rescue operations for each of the past three years; and how much is expected to be spent on such operations in each of the next three years. [244761]

Mr. Michael Foster: There has been no requirement for the Department for International Development (DFID) to support overseas search and rescue operations since the Pakistan earthquake in October 2005. Should any disaster occur in the coming years requiring international assistance with search and rescue DFID will be ready to contribute assistance.

We are in the process of agreeing a multi-annual budget with the UK Fire and Rescue Service.

Overseas Aid: Wildlife Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department funded aimed at protecting endangered species in developing countries in 2007. [245413]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises the importance of biodiversity conservation to its poverty reduction efforts and continues to channel significant financial support to the sector through a range of mechanisms. DFID is responsible for UK contributions to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)—the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). In 2007-08 DFID provided £35 million to the GEF—of which one-third is allocated to biodiversity conservation. DFID has Partnership Programme Agreements (PPAs) with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Institution of Environment and Development (IIED). In 2007-08 DFID provided £3.699 million to WWF and £1.793 million (2007-08) to IIED.

In addition to the PPAs, DFID support to organisations engaged in the protection of endangered species in 2007-08 included; £281,000 (2007-08) to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, £142,312 (2007-08) to Bird Life International and £80,587 (2007-08) to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Other areas of our work that contribute indirectly to endangered species protection include our advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—particularly on financing conservation, and on forest and fisheries governance. We are developing a new research programme we are developing on Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) (£30 million over five years), and have recently contributed to International Crop Diversity Trust (£10 million) and the Congo Basin Forest Fund (£60 million over three years).

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to overseas conservation organisations in 2007. [245414]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has partnership programme agreements (PPAs) with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and International Institution of Environment and Development (MED). In 2007-8 DFID provided £3.699 million to WWF and £1.793 million (2007-8) to MED.

In addition to the PPAs, DFID support to overseas conservation organisations in 2007-8 also included; £281,000 (2007-8) to the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, £142,312 (2007-8) to Bird Life International and £80,587 (2007-8) to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Pakistan: Education

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if his Department will assist Pakistan to broaden the curriculum of madrassahs; and if he will make a statement. [245016]

Mr. Michael Foster: While support from the Department for International Development (DFID) does not specifically focus on broadening the curriculum of madrassas, our education programmes will assist Pakistan's ambitious education reforms, which include measures to expand the national curriculum. The new curriculum will be reflected in textbooks and improved quality of teaching in both public and private schools, including madrassas. DFID support to build up the capacity within provincial education departments will also ensure better state regulation of all schools, including madrassas, to meet minimum standards of quality education.

St Helena: Airports

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) for what reasons there have been a pause in negotiations on the development of the airport on St. Helena; [245027]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of St Helena of a delay in the development of the airport; [245026]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the population of St Helena of a delay in the development of an airport on the island; [244814]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs before taking the decision to pause the negotiations on the development of the airport on St Helena; [244815]

(5) what reassessment he has made of the likely effects of the delay in developing the airport on St Helena on his Department's future expenditure on assisting the people of that island; [244816]

(6) what discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary on the decision to pause the negotiations on the development of the airport on St Helena. [245028]

Mr. Michael Foster: No decision has yet been made on the project.

The pause is to allow analysis and discussion, including with ministerial colleagues, of the affordability of options and their implications for access to St. Helena in light of the changed economic limatec.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new Academy Schools were opened in 2008. [247402]

Jim Knight: 47 academies were opened in 2008. A further three opened this January.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has for the future of the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [247025]

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the management of waves 7 to 15 of the Building Schools for the Future Programme; and if he will make a statement. [247196]

Jim Knight: I aim to announce the revised national programme for Building Schools for the Future shortly, based on the revised expressions of interest which authorities submitted by 30 November 2008. The most highly prioritised projects, which will access funding starting from 2011-12, should enter the programme later in 2009 where they demonstrate that they are ready to deliver.

Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what monitoring his Department undertakes of the speed with which local authorities *(a)* submit care orders for processing through the courts and *(b)* transfer children in their care or custody into foster homes. [244504]

Beverley Hughes: It is for local authorities with social services responsibilities to determine the point at which an application is made to the court for an order under section 31 of the Children Act 1989. Each application will depend upon the unique circumstances of the individual case with which they are dealing. In some cases, it will be appropriate for an order to be sought immediately regarding a child with whom the local authority will not previously have had contact. In other cases, social services may have been involved with a family over many years before concerns arise which make a care order under section 31 appropriate. Information on the time elapsed before the application of care orders is therefore not collected centrally.

Children entering local authority care are moved into a placement immediately. The majority of children entering care are immediately placed with foster carers. Of the 23,000 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008, 17,300 were placed with foster carers immediately.

Children in Care: Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Stafford of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1067-8W, on children in care: crime, what the estimated total cost of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders has been since its inception. [240899]

Beverley Hughes: The funding provided by the Government to NACRO to support their work on reducing offending by young people, including by looked after children, is summarised in the following table. This also includes details of funding provided to NACRO for a short-term project to produce guidance about setting up and managing effective remand foster care provision.

	£			£000
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total 2004-07
NACRO—core funding	140	100	75	
Remand fostering project	50	—	—	
Total	190	100	75	365

Children: Poverty

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the pilot projects designed to test new and innovative approaches to tackling child poverty; and if he will make a statement. [246999]

Beverley Hughes: Steady progress is being made. Two projects—tax credit advisers in job centres and the family intervention projects—are already operational and another, the Work Focused Services pilot, is planned to go live at the end of the month.

We are currently considering the next tranche of pilot projects and we will be announcing the successful applicants shortly.

Children: Protection

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps his Department has taken in schools aimed at protecting children from domestic abuse. [244666]

Beverley Hughes: Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education (2006) makes clear that everyone in the education service should help keep children and young people safe. They should do this by identifying those who are suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm, and take appropriate action with the aim of making sure they are kept safe both at home an in the education setting.

Through the school curriculum children are supported to develop their capacity to empathise, show respect and form positive relationships with other people. Schools have specifically reported less conflict, calmer classrooms and better relationships as a result. As part of the National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence the DCSF continues to work with the Home Office and in June 2008, new materials were launched specifically for schools and for young people to raise awareness of forced marriage. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

To support the most vulnerable children, including those whose childhood is being ruined by abuse of any kind, the DCSF is providing £30 million to support the expansion and integration of the NSPCC's listening services. This money will allow the NSPCC to expand their services significantly so that more children can be given the advice and help that can be so important. The Government are also investing £102.5 million over 2008-11 in the deployment of parent support advisers (PSAs) with over 1,500 PSAs and similar professionals currently working in schools. These professionals support families across a range of issues, which can include domestic abuse, and in particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

Children's Centres

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children's centres there are in England. [247233]

Beverley Hughes: There are currently 2,920 Sure Start children's centres in England providing access to services to over 2.3 million children and their families.

By 2010 there will be at least 3,500 centres, one for every community, offering permanent and universal provision to help ensure that every child gets the best start in life.

Connexions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Connexions services in targeting young people not in education, employment or training to ensure that they have information, advice and guidance required to understand their options. [247244]

Beverley Hughes: In 2005, my Department published its report of the "End to End Review of Careers Education and Guidance" which concluded that Connexions has made good progress with targeted services for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), or at risk of becoming NEET. This follows similarly positive findings by Ofsted in inspections carried out between 2002 and 2004 and from a 2004 survey of young people's views. The recently commissioned Ofsted Thematic Review of Information Advice and Guidance will include a focus on IAG for young people who are not in employment, education or training and on those leaving care and will give us a more up-to-date picture of the effectiveness of these services. In addition, the Department will continue to monitor local authorities' performance in reducing the proportion of 16 to 19-year-olds not in education, employment and training, and where necessary, challenge and support them to secure improvement.

Drugs: Misuse

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made to date under his Department's Drugs: protecting families and communities strategy; and if he will make a statement. [247259]

Beverley Hughes: The 10-year drug strategy "Protecting families and communities", published in February 2008, set out a series of steps to address the problems associated with young people's misuse of drugs, alcohol and volatile substances. The main action that has already been taken is as follows.

A review of drug and alcohol education has taken place and, in response to its recommendations, in October 2008 Government committed to review existing guidance on the subject by September 2009 and to conduct an independent review of how its decision to make PSHE statutory status could be translated into a practical way forward.

To continue helping to prevent drug use among young people (11 to 18) by changing their attitudes and perceptions towards drugs and drug users, a new FRANK Cocaine campaign was launched in December 2008. Awareness of FRANK remains very high: in the latest tracking study (report July 2008) 83 per cent. of young people were aware of the campaign. This figure is unchanged from 2007.

A cross-government working group has been set up, informing thinking for next Drug Strategy Action Plan, measuring impact of existing interventions with at risk families, identifying research priorities and informing the rollout of Think Family reforms at local level.

The drug strategy committed to publish guidance to help the commissioning and delivery of treatment services with a greater focus on the needs of parents and families, and to that effect the National Treatment Agency (NTA) published carers' guidance in October 2008. The NTA will also shortly be publishing updated commissioning guidance for local partnerships which will include a specific section on commissioning appropriate services for parental drug users, including pregnant drug users. The document will also provide guidance to commissioners on supporting families around drug use and involving them in the commissioning system.

To meet our commitment to provide intensive support to substance misusing parents through a range of recently established family interventions, targeting families at risk, the substance misuse agenda has been included in remit letter for local parenting support advisers; Family Pathfinder status has been awarded to 14 areas, one focussing on substance misuse; and, substance misuse has been included in the broad remit for parenting and early intervention projects. Furthermore, family intervention pilots (FIP) have been extended to 500 further families affected by substance misuse. NTA are working with DCSF in the development of the child poverty family intervention projects in 10 pilot areas during 2008-09. This will be rolled out to further areas in the next two years.

To meet our commitment toward encouraging better take-up of free child care for three and four-year-olds (and two-year-olds in pilot areas) to improve access to treatment for parents, the NTA will be publishing family friendly treatment guidance for commissioners and providers in spring 2009. NTA is also continuously working on ensuring that parents seeking access to treatment are aware of free provision.

Early Years Capital Grant

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of the Early Years Capital Grant will be made available to *(a)* private, voluntary and independent day care settings and *(b)* maintained settings in the 2008-11 spending period. [244792]

Beverley Hughes: The Quality and Access Capital Grant has three aims:

1. To improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings to support delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities, and Information and Computer Technology (ICT) resources;

2. To ensure that all children, including disabled children, are able to access provision; and,

3. To enable providers in the private, voluntary and independent sectors to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

Our expectation is that the majority of the grant is used to improve the quality of the environment in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years and child care settings, both to support higher quality experiences for young children and to ensure that all children can access services and benefit fully from them.

However, spending on the maintained sector is not precluded and we have not set a percentage split between PVI and maintained settings. Providing that spend is in line with the three aims set out above, it is for local authorities to decide how to distribute the grant to providers.

Entry to Learning Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made in the Entry to Learning Programme; and if he will make a statement. [247254]

Beverley Hughes: The Entry to Learning pilot programme was announced in the Children's Plan in December 2007. It builds on the successful work that is already done by innovative third sector and local authority funded provision in restoring the confidence and self-esteem of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The programme aims to improve young people's progression from this provision to more formal learning to ensure that they are able to advance and gain the skills and qualifications they need to succeed.

Having developed the Entry to Learning programme with input from the Learning and Skills Council and a number of experienced third sector providers, we invited all local areas to express an interest in taking part in the pilot in July 2008. We received over 30 expressions of interest and selected four local areas for the first phase of the pilot: Brighton and Hove (with East Sussex), Birmingham, Sandwell and Lancashire.

Working closely with these areas and building on lessons from the Activity Agreement and Allowance Pilot, we developed a detailed specification for Entry to Learning to guide local areas as they developed their plans for implementing the programme.

Grant letters were issued to all four local areas in November 2008, formally beginning the pilots and allowing the local areas to recruit project managers for the programme. All four areas submitted detailed implementation plans, which were signed off by my Department in early December. The local teams are now engaged in delivery against these plans, recruiting the trusted adults who will support young people through this programme.

Families Group

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress the Families Group has made towards meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [247802]

Beverley Hughes: The family is fundamentally important to society and is where most individuals get the support they need to progress throughout their lives. The "Children's Plan" set out the Department's strategic direction for supporting families to ensure that children are given the best possible start in life. This includes empowering parents to make informed choices; helping families out of poverty, while maintaining a work life balance for parents and families; supporting strong couple relationships; increasing the availability of parenting programmes and support to help parents improve their ability to be effective parents; and providing support to families who are struggling or where parental problems (such as drug abuse or mental health) get in the way of positive parenting to get the family back on track.

The "Children's Plan One Year On" set out recent progress towards these aims. This includes refocusing efforts to ensure that every local authority now has a parenting strategy which set out how services are available across a continuum of need from universal services through to very targeted interventions for the most vulnerable families; ensuring that the workforce understands the value of parental engagement and the specific role they can and should play; and introducing a single commissioner to lead on developing local services for parents. We have also recently announced extra support for separating parents and their children to cope better

with the impact of parental separation and conflict. The Government have also made significant progress in tackling child poverty and supporting working parents through flexible working, extended maternity leave entitlement and the introduction of paternity leave.

Family Pathfinder Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made in the Family Pathfinder pilots; and if he will make a statement. [247001]

Beverley Hughes: Since the announcement of the successful Family Pathfinder areas in May 2008 all 15 have begun to implement their plans to test the Think Family model. The Pathfinders are testing innovations on a number of themes including whole family assessment, better information sharing, joint commissioning and multi-agency working in order to better identify and work with families with multiple and complex problems. The Pathfinder local authorities have all attended two events to share ideas and best practice and to gather learning on how to implement the Think Family model. DCSF have commissioned an evaluation of the pathfinders which will produce an interim report in the spring.

Foster Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish his Department's *(a)* draft contract for independent fostering and *(b)* standard contract for residential care. [247276]

Beverley Hughes: The national contract for the placement of children in independent foster care was published on 3 October 2008. Since then it has been available from the Department's website at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00316/.

The national contract for the placement of children in residential homes was published in early November 2007. Since then it has been available from the Department's website at:

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00315/.

Further Education: Admissions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the September Guarantee in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [247237]

Beverley Hughes: Figures collected by Connexions services show that 94.2 per cent. of 16-year-olds who completed compulsory education in 2008 said that they wanted to remain in learning, and received an offer under the September Guarantee. This is an increase from 91.8 per cent. in 2007, the first year of the Guarantee.

The Guarantee was extended to 17-year-olds in 2008, and almost 80 per cent. of those who had been engaged on a short course or who were not in education, employment or training (NEET), also received an offer.

Statistics on the proportion of young people participating in learning, or who are NEET, are published annually by DCSF. The proportion of 16-year-olds in learning has risen steadily over the last seven years, with an acceleration in 2007 when the September Guarantee was first introduced. It is not possible to separate out the effects of the Guarantee from other factors, but feedback from local areas suggests that it had a significant impact on supporting this improvement. 2008 participation and NEET statistics are due to be published in June 2009.

Successful delivery of the Guarantee is a key step towards preparing local authorities, and their partners, for the raising of the age at which young people will participate in education or training to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of pupils gained five A* to C grade GCSEs including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in each year since 1997. [244287]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Number of pupils achieving five GCSEs only at grades A-C including English and maths*	*Percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs only at grades A*-C including English and maths*
2008	295,170	49.2
2007	286,616	48.7
2006	288,701	48.5
2005	279,200	47.9
2004	271,723	47.2
2003	258,273	45.5
2002	253,774	45.8
2001	244,645	44.5
2000	231,657	39.9
1999	224,089	38.6
1998	212,305	36.9
1997	209,075	35.6

Notes:
1. The 2008 data are provisional and subject to change.
2. The data for 2005-08 are based on pupils at the end of KS4 and years 1997 to 2004 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.

GCSE: Gifted Children

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of gifted and talented pupils did not obtain five GCSEs at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, in the latest year for which figures are available. [246602]

Jim Knight: In 2007, a total of 11,628 (14.3 per cent.) gifted and talented pupils did not achieve five GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics. These figures relate to pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all maintained schools.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 635-6W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education, how many and what percentage of pupils in the maintained, mainstream sector achieved five GCSEs including a modern language GCSE at grades A* to C in each year since 2004, broken down by index of multiple deprivation deciles. [243648]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. The information relating to the proportion of pupils achieving A*-C in one Modern Foreign Language GCSE in 2008 is available in the following table:

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 achieving A-C in a modern foreign language GCSE or equivalent by IDACI deprivation decile of known pupil residence, 2008*[1]

IDACI decile	Number of pupils achieving A*-C in one Modern Foreign Language	Percentage of pupils achieving A*-C in one Modern Foreign Language
0-10% most deprived	10,023	14.6
10-20%	11,101	17.5
20-30%	11,708	19.8
30-40%	13,077	22.8
40-50%	14,330	25.5
50-60%	15,914	29.1
60-70%	17,506	32.1
70-80%	19,352	35.0
80-90%	21,800	38.5
90-100% least deprived	26,299	45.4

[1] Provisional.

Source:
National Pupil Database

Head Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many days of sick leave head teachers took in each of the last five years in each local authority area, broken down by type of illness. [247313]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1742W, on GCSEs, how many and what proportion of pupils achieved GCSEs at A* to C in two foreign languages in each year since 1996. [241691]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table:

	Number of 15-year-olds	Percentage achieving two or more GCSEs in modern foreign languages at grades A*-C
2008	653,892	4.7
2007	636,392	4.7
2006	649,905	5.0
2005	636,771	5.3
2004	643,560	5.3
2003	622,122	5.4
2002	606,534	5.8
2001	603,718	5.9
2000	580,393	5.9
1999	580,972	6.2
1998	575,210	6.5
1997	586,766	7.0
1996	594,035	7.3

Notes:
1. The data are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year.
2. The 2008 data are provisional and subject to change.
3. The data were taken from the Achievement and Attainment Tables' data.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils in pupil referral units *(a)* were entered for key stage 3 tests, *(b)* were working below the level of the key stage 3 tests, *(c)* did not register a level in the key stage 3 tests, *(d)* registered level 1, *(e)* registered level 2 and *(f)* registered level (i) 3, (ii) 4, (iii) 5, (iv) 6, (v) 7 and (vi) 8 in each of the last three years. [246624]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown as follows:

The following tables show the number and percentage of pupils in pupil referral units at each level in English, mathematics and science for the last three years, 2006 to 2008.

KS3 test results for pupils in pupil referral units, 2006 to 2008[1]

		Number of pupils at each level											
	Subject	A	T	B	N	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total eligible pupils
2006	English	180	24	450	215	—	117	236	141	13	3	—	1,388
	Mathematics	345	33	144	47	18	334	467	262	86	12	0	1,638
	Science	333	25	284	93	39	301	495	196	34	2	—	1,714
2007	English	505	18	325	313	0	117	252	165	11	3	0	1,709
	Mathematics	413	25	112	37	25	326	534	244	83	17	1	1,867
	Science	395	27	300	83	45	289	509	201	50	2	0	1,801

KS3 test results for pupils in pupil referral units, 2006 to 2008[1]

Number of pupils at each level

	Subject	A	T	B	N	2	3	4	5	6	7	[2]8	Total eligible pupils
2008	English	438	17	406	272	0	128	280	170	17	3	—	1,741
	Mathematics	394	13	388	28	18	276	544	315	94	13	0	1,738
	Science	369	22	374	78	57	316	430	225	43	2	—	1,750

Percentage of pupils at each level

	Subject	A	T	B	N	2	3	4	5	6	7	[2]8	Total eligible pupils
2008	English	13	2	33	15	—	8	17	10	1	0	—	100
	Mathematics	19	1	9	3	1	20	29	16	5	1	0	100
	Science	19	1	12	5	2	18	29	11	2	0	—	100
2007	English	30	1	19	18	—	7	15	10	1	0	—	100
	Mathematics	23	1	6	2	1	18	29	14	5	1	0	100
	Science	22	1	11	5	2	16	28	11	3	0	—	100
2006	English	25	1	24	16	—	7	16	10	1	0	—	100
	Mathematics	19	1	6	2	1	16	31	18	5	1	0	100
	Science	17	1	16	4	3	18	25	13	2	0	—	100

[1] 2008 results are from provisional data.
[2] Level 8 can only be achieved in teacher assessments and the mathematics test only.

Notes:
A represents pupils who were absent.
T represents pupils working at the level of the assessment but unable to access the test.
B represents pupils who were assessed by teacher assessment only.
N represents pupils who took the tests but failed to register a level.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on contracting a private company to provide pre-tests to the *(a)* key stage 2 and *(b)* key stage 3 tests for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [244530]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the Key Stage 2 (KS2) and Key Stage 3 (KS3) national curriculum tests, including pre-testing. Contracts are inclusive of development, pre-testing, marking and analysis and equating costs. QCA advise that specific costs for pre-tests are not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* key stage 1 and *(b)* key stage 2 test results were appealed against in 2008; what proportion of those appeals led to the results being changed; and if he will make a statement. [244532]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) is responsible for administering national curriculum tests. Key stage 1 consists of a series of tests and tasks administered by teachers and these are not marked externally. At key stage 2, the NAA has in place arrangements for marking to be reviewed where a school believes that it is inaccurate to the extent that a pupil has received an incorrect national curriculum level. The NAA is currently managing the final phase of the reviews process and expects that all results will be issued to schools in the coming weeks. The great majority of schools have already received results for their review applications. Once the final phase of review marking is complete, NAA will be able to provide full data on the volume and outcome of reviews for the 2008 national curriculum test cycle.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which key individuals from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority led Project Tornado referred to in paragraph 2.6 of the Sutherland Inquiry report HC 62. [245833]

Jim Knight: The National Assessment Agency (NAA) Managing Director had oversight of the procurement process and chaired associated project boards.

The NAA Operations Director was the Senior Responsible Officer for Project Tornado.

National Curriculum Tests: Contracts

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Statement of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 991-93, on the Sutherland Inquiry, on what dates between June 2007 to July 2008 staff of his Department drew their own assessments of risks in the Key Stage Testing Contract to the attention of Ministers in his Department; what concerns were raised; what action Ministers took in each case; and if he will make a statement. [246177]

Jim Knight: As Lord Sutherland reported, DCSF had comprehensive arrangements in place to monitor QCA's performance, including good project and risk

management processes which provided thorough coverage across the Department's business. Between June 2007 and early July 2008 (when the NAA alerted Ministers to the likely delays to the release of test data), DCSF officials reported their assessment of risks to DCSF Ministers on several occasions. Ministers also received regular updates on national curriculum test delivery from the QCA and NAA, who continued to reassure Ministers as late as 17 June that delivery remained on track. Ministers responded to these assessments by seeking reassurance from QCA and NAA that they had suitable action in hand to secure delivery of their contractors' obligations.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what occasions during 2008 referred to in the Sutherland Inquiry reference: 4.137, officials from his Department escalated their assessment of risk associated with the marking of key stage 3 and key stage 2 national curriculum tests to Ministers; and what subsequent action Ministers took on each such occasion. [246273]

Jim Knight: As Lord Sutherland reported, DCSF had comprehensive arrangements in place to monitor QCA's performance, including good project and risk management processes which provided thorough coverage across the Department's business. Between January 2008 and early July (when the NAA alerted Ministers to the likely delays to the release of test data), DCSF officials reported their assessment of risks to DCSF Ministers on several occasions. Thereafter, Ministers also received regular, and at least weekly, updates on national curriculum test delivery from the QCA and NAA, who continued to reassure Ministers as late as 17 June that delivery remained on track. Ministers responded to these assessments by seeking reassurance from QCA and NAA that they had suitable action in hand to secure delivery of their contractors' obligations.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority: Location

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of the relocating of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority headquarters to Coventry. [245832]

Jim Knight: The current estimate of relocation costs is £48 million. An additional, £16 million provision is shown in the 2007-08 Annual Accounts relating to unoccupied lease obligations for current London offices.

Given particularly that accommodation costs in the West Midlands are lower than those in central London, the relocation of QCA is expected to deliver cost savings in the long term.

The 2004 Lyons review recommended that Government make the significant investment required to relocate organisations out of London and the South East, and concluded that there would be positive economic benefits to areas into which organisations were relocated.

Schools: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how long on average a school placed in special measures spent under those measures in the latest period for which information is available. [247415]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the average number of months that primary and secondary schools spend in special measures. The figures are based on the schools that were removed from this Ofsted category during the 2007/08 academic year and the 1997/98 figures are shown for comparison. Pupil referral units and special schools are not included in view of the small numbers involved.

	Number of months spent in special measures	
Phase	*2007/08*	*1997/98*
Primary	18	23
Secondary	20	28

Note:
Pupil referral units and special schools not shown in view of the small numbers involved (seven during 2007/08).

Secondary Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of secondary schools offer wrap-around care *(a)* before school, *(b)* after school and *(c)* before and after school in each local authority area. [247055]

Beverley Hughes: We want all schools to offer access to a core offer of extended services by 2010. Secondary schools are not expected to offer formal wraparound child care. Instead they are expected to provide access to a varied menu of activities such as study support, sports clubs, music tuition, dance, drama and art clubs in a safe place to be, before and after school from 8 am to 6 pm and during the school holidays, in response to demand.

We are making good progress with local authorities reporting that more than 15,190 schools, around 67 per cent. of all maintained schools including 2,590 secondary (77 per cent.), now providing access to the full core offer and many more already providing access to the varied menu of activities aspect of the core offer.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students who started a new diploma course in September 2008 have since withdrawn from the course; and if he will make a statement. [244533]

Jim Knight: There is usually some fluctuation in learner numbers and qualifications at the beginning of the autumn term. We asked local authorities to provide us with diploma learner number information at the end of September, in order to allow for some of the initial fluctuation to have occurred and so to gather more accurate figures. Local authorities told us that just over 12,000 young people started a diploma course this term. We collected this information for funding purposes, and we have not collected revised figures subsequently.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress of the 14 to 19 Partnerships in planning for the delivery of the entitlement to 17 diploma lines across the country by 2013. [247245]

Jim Knight: 14-19 Partnerships provide an assessment of their progress in delivering all areas of the 14-19 reform programme through 14-19 Progress Checks. Progress Checks assess a Partnership's ability to meet the 14-19 entitlement, including delivery of the Diploma entitlement, and help them to identify where they may need to take further action. The latest round of Progress Checks in October 2008 showed that 14-19 Partnerships are making good progress on the delivery of 14-19 reforms, with 89 per cent. of areas rated Green or Amber Green.

As part of the application process for the Diploma Gateway, 14-19 Partnerships have been asked to outline their strategy for ensuring delivery of the Diploma entitlement by 2013. The results of the Gateway will be available in March.

Vocational Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 to 19 year olds are enrolled on an entry to employment programme; and if he will make a statement. [245602]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Entry to employment (E2E) is a tailored programme for 16 to 18-year-olds who are not yet ready or able to enter apprenticeship, employment or further education and who are not yet ready to study a qualification at level 2. E2E has been highly successful with over 25,000 young people in learning at any one time. In 2007-08, 54,717 young people started the programme and of the 51,709 who participated on the programme for the minimum length of time of four weeks to around 22 weeks or longer, depending on the requirements of the young person, 27,900 progressed into further education or employment.

This covers the 2007-08 academic year which are the latest data available from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

As part of the 14 to 19 education and skills reforms, we are developing the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) to create a more coherent set of entry level and level 1 qualifications. FLT progression pathways will offer learning programmes tailored to the needs and aspirations of individuals and have been developed from best practice in E2E programmes. FLT progression pathways are being piloted in 2008-09 and 2009-10, including with some E2E providers, and will be fully evaluated to ensure they meet the needs of learners. When phased piloting is complete, the Foundation Learning Tier will encompass all current LSC funded provision for young people and adults at this level, including E2E programmes.

Young Offenders

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the implementation of the Youth Conditional Caution; and if he will make a statement. [247263]

Beverley Hughes: We propose to introduce the Youth Conditional Caution in stages. Pilots for 16 and 17-year-olds will begin in summer 2009. Evaluation of the pilot schemes will inform decisions on national roll out of the Caution for 16 and 17-year-olds and its application to 10 to 15-year-olds. Consultation on the statutory code of practice governing use of the Youth Conditional Caution for 16 and 17-year-olds will begin shortly and I will ensure that the hon. Member receives copies of the consultation documents.

Young People: Alcoholic Drinks

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Youth Alcohol Action Plan in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [247258]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Alcohol Action Plan (YAAP) published on 2 June 2008 set out a comprehensive approach to address the problems associated with young people's alcohol consumption. The key steps that have already been taken are as follows.

Antisocial behaviour and violent crime related to outdoor drinking by young people is being tackled through the introduction of a number of new initiatives through the Policing and Crime Bill announced in the Queen's Speech in December 2008. Subject to parliamentary approval, this would include the introduction of a new offence of persistently possessing alcohol in a public place by under 18s; increasing the penalty for the offence of consuming alcohol in a designated public place; ensuring that when police confiscate alcohol from under 18s that they also take a record of their name and address and if they are under 16, remove them to a place of safety; and by lowering the age for direction to individuals who represent a risk of disorder powers, so that police can now disperse groups of under 16s.

The Policing and Crime Bill also would introduce a mandatory code for the alcohol retail industry which will include further action to reduce underage sales; and the offence of selling alcohol to children would be changed from on three or more to two or more different occasions. The Home Office has provided funding to encourage greater take-up and acceptance of the proof of age standards scheme.

We committed to ensuring that parents were made to be responsible for their children's alcohol related antisocial behaviour, with greater use of acceptable behaviour contracts and parenting contracts. The Home Office will shortly be launching a series of practitioner training workshops to improve the skills of frontline practitioners on the tools and powers at their disposal to tackle alcohol-related harms, which will be followed up by revised guidance to the police, health and children's services in all local areas to strengthen their approach to dealing with young people drinking in public places.

Targeted work on reducing the harm arising from young people's substance misuse, of which alcohol plays a part particularly with vulnerable young people, is being taken forward through actions set out in the drug strategy, "Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities" (published in February 2008). This includes improving the specialist treatment available to those under 18s with substance misuse problems, with alcohol dependency the main factor in over 1/3 of all those currently being helped; ensuring a focus on identifying problems early through children's services, including where a child is affected by parental alcohol misuse; and supporting the most vulnerable young people through targeted youth support and substance misuse workers in all youth offending teams. To target families at risk, family

intervention pilots (FIP) have been extended to 500 further families affected by substance misuse including alcohol.

Furthermore, Government have committed to ensuring that young people and their parents are provided with appropriate information to prevent them from suffering from the risks of alcohol use. We will shortly be issuing guidance from the Chief Medical Officer what consists responsible drinking, and we expect to consult with parents and young people on what information and advice they would find useful to their decisions about young people's drinking and to help reduce harms caused by it. We anticipate that consultation on the information and advice will form part of a wider social marketing campaign on young people's drinking.

A review of drug and alcohol education has taken place and, in response to its recommendations, in October 2008 Government committed to review existing guidance on the subject by September 2009 and to conduct an independent review of how its decision to make PSHE statutory status can be translated into a practical way forward.

Young People: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of 17 year-olds who will be in education in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [247192]

Jim Knight: The Learning and Skills Council have published, in their Annual Statement of priorities for 2009-10, projected participation figures for the proportion of 17-year-olds who are expected to be in education and work-based learning for the academic years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10. These are:

	Proportion participating in education or work-based learning at age 17 (percentage)
2007/08	79
2008/09	81
2009/10	84

The Department's Grant letter to the LSC for 2009-10 also stated the ambition to increase the proportion of 17-year-olds in education or training so that 86 per cent. are participating in 2010/11.

A copy of the LSC's Annual Statement of Priorities, which includes the Grant Letter, can be accessed at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/aboutus/lscstrategy/statementofpriorities/

Young People: Unemployment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of young people was not in education, employment or training in 2007. [247486]

Beverley Hughes: Estimates of participation in education, training and employment for those aged 16 to 18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website (http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml). This publication includes the Department's official estimate of the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET). At the end of 2007, 9.4 per cent. of 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arctic

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries' claims to Arctic waters are disputed by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other countries. [244489]

Gillian Merron: The UK does not have any claims in the Arctic.

The UK expects that the five coastal states bordering on the Arctic Ocean should act in accordance with the framework of international law, including the law of the sea. The Government note that in their declaration at Ilulissat on 27-29 May 2008 the five states have committed themselves to this framework, as well as to working through the International Maritime Organisation. We welcome this.

Chagos Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he and his predecessors have had with representatives of the Chagossian people in the last 10 years. [245420]

Gillian Merron: Officials have been in regular contact with representatives of the Chagossian people in Mauritius, the Seychelles and also in the UK. Ministers have also had meetings with Chagossian representatives based in the UK and in Mauritius.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in his press statement following the Law Lords judgment on 22 October on the Judicial Review of the 2004 BIOT Orders in Council, the Government will keep in close touch with the Chagossian communities.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in response to the recent House of Lords decision on the Chagos Islanders. [245423]

Gillian Merron: Following the House of Lords ruling, the two Orders in Council made for the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) in 2004 stand and provide that no person has a right of abode in BIOT or the right to enter the Territory unless authorised.

The Government continue to be in close touch with the Chagossian communities and consider carefully future requests to visit the Territory. A group of six Chagossians now resident in Crawley visited Diego Garcia and the outer islands of the British Indian Ocean Territory in November 2008. This visit was organised and funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Climate Change

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional *(a)* personnel and *(b)* financial resources his Department has allocated to addressing climate change in accordance with the undertaking given in the Written Ministerial Statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 52WS, on the New Strategic Framework. [242202]

David Miliband: In accordance with new Strategic Framework for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, I have substantially increased both the resources devoted to addressing climate change at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Climate Change and Energy programme budget in the FCO's Strategic Programme Fund has been increased from £4.7 million in FY 2007-08 to £10 million for FY 2008-09, £16 million for FY 2009-10 and £21 million for FY 2010-11.

In addition, the number of staff working to deliver climate change and energy objectives has also increased. £0.8 million has been provided to create 19 new positions in London. An extra £5.732 million for diplomatic missions in priority countries has created 32.5 new positions for British diplomats on postings and 73 positions for locally-engaged members of staff.

I have stepped up the frequency of my discussions on climate change with counterparts and will continue to do so, in coordination with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, in advance of the critical UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) Conference of Parties at Copenhagen in December 2009.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, on climate change, (1) whether there will be any change to *(a)* resources and *(b)* personnel devoted to the Climate Change and Energy programme in his Department in light of the creation of a Department for Energy and Climate Change; [242238]

(2) where each of the 73 locally-engaged members of staff are based; with which UK mission they work; and what their responsibilities are; [242239]

(3) which countries are priorities for his Department's Climate Change and Energy programme; what the *(a)* grade and *(b)* responsibilities are of the 32.5 new positions for British diplomats; and in which countries they are based; [242240]

(4) what mechanisms exist for the co-ordination of his Department's Climate Change and Energy programme with the Department for Energy and Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [242241]

David Miliband: As I referred to in the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2138W, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has substantially increased the level of resources devoted to addressing climate change. We do not intend to alter this approach following the creation of the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC). Addressing climate change continues to be a top priority for the Foreign Office and is a key part of Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO) 7.

The distribution of the new locally-engaged staff and UK-based diplomats to which I referred in my previous answer will be in line with FCO priority countries for HMG's objectives on climate change. These are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Turkey and the USA. The newly recruited staff are located in: Caracas, Bogota, Lima, Brasilia, Vancouver, Ottawa, Santiago, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, La Paz, Washington and across the US network, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Beijing and across the China network, Jakarta, Singapore, Kuala Lumpar, Bangkok, Manila, Tokyo, Seoul, Pretoria, Cape Town, Berlin, Rome and Warsaw. UK-based diplomats have been recruited at grades SMS, D6 and C4. The newly recruited staff have a range of responsibilities which vary depending on the climate change and energy priorities of the mission in which they are based. These priorities are set out in each mission's business plan.

Members of DECC sit on the FCO's DSO 7 programme board and the Strategic Programme Fund Board, while the FCO sits on the cross-Whitehall International Climate Change and Energy Board, which is chaired by DECC. The International Strategy and Campaigns Unit (ISCU) was also created in early 2008 to co-ordinate HMG policy on aspects of climate change policy. The UK Government are critically aware of the need to ensure our climate change and energy policies are developed and delivered in a coherent manner.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what additional support the European Union has given to the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in respect of *(a)* equipment, *(b)* intelligence and *(c)* logistics since renewed fighting began in October 2008. [242810]

Gillian Merron: European member states, including the UK, continue to support the UN mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (MONUC) through contributions to the cost of running the mission. The UK also provides military technical expertise to MONUC. The EU has not provided any additional support in these three categories since the resumption of hostilities in DRC. Member states have discussed how best to respond to the UN Secretary General's request for assistance. Humanitarian support from EU member states for the victims of violence in DRC has increased, and the EU is closely engaged in diplomatic efforts to resolve the questions at its root.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many official journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by plane in each of the last five years. [247503]

Gillian Merron: I refer you to my answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 650W which sets out all overseas visits undertaken by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and all FCO Ministers since June 2007 and my predecessor's answer of 5 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1297W, which states that since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies are available in the Library.

For Ministers below Cabinet rank and officials, collecting the detailed information requested could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Higher Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department undertook courses funded by the Department for *(a)* undergraduate degrees, *(b)* postgraduate degrees or diplomas, *(c)* Masters degrees, *(d)* MBA degrees and *(e)* PhD degrees in the last 12 months, broken down by pay band. [242137]

Gillian Merron: In 2008, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office human resources directorate provided funding for:

(a) Three members of staff at band A, seven members of staff at band B, one member of staff at C4, one member of staff at band D6 and two members of staff at band D7 to study for an undergraduate degree;

(b) 18 members of staff at band B3, 12 members of staff at band C4, one member of staff at band C5, five members of staff in band D6, two at band D7 and one senior management officer to study postgraduate diplomas;

(c) two members of staff at band C4 to study masters degrees;

(d) three members of staff at band B3, five members of staff at band C4, four members of staff at band C5, 17 members of staff in band D6 , to study MBAs

(e) no members of staff to study PHDs.

In addition, it is possible that other directorates in the FCO have funded members of staff to complete courses relating to a specialist area, however we do not keep figures on this and gathering the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on Ministerial hospitality in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [241240]

Gillian Merron: Government hospitality in protocol directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) recorded the following expenditure on official hospitality for all Government Departments, including new stock purchased for the Government wine cellar, for the previous four financial years:

	£
2004-05	869,418
2005-06	809,529
2006-07	592,592
2007-08	525,568

The FCO does not maintain a central record of other hospitality expenditure, and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost. However, all FCO staff are bound by official guidance which ensures that the provision of food and beverages at public expense is appropriate and cost effective.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244392]

Gillian Merron: All civil servants permanently employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) receive an annual salary. This is determined by a member of staff s grade, performance and, to some degree, length of service.

The FCO pays staff whom it employs directly on temporary contracts exactly the same rates of pay as permanent members of staff.

Some temporary staff are supplied by agencies. These staff are employed and paid by the agency concerned, which then charges a fee to the FCO. Individual agencies determine the rates of pay for their agency staff.

Departmental Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department have (i) met and (ii) spoken on the telephone to representatives of (A) Anglo American plc, (B) BHP Billiton plc, (C) Rio Tinto plc, (D) Vedanta plc and (E) Xstrata plc since April 2007; and how many staff from each such company have been seconded to his Department in that period. [245891]

Gillian Merron: Information is not available on the number of occasions Foreign and Commonwealth Ministers and officials met or were consulted by telephone by representatives of these companies. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

No one from these companies has been seconded to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since April 2007.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria internal selection boards in his Department apply to the selection of heads of mission. [244253]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) number 1 and number 2 Selection Boards appoint heads of mission at senior civil service (SCS) level. Members are appointed by virtue of their position, without further criteria for membership of the selection boards. Members of the number 1 selection board are FCO board members, that is Directors-General of the FCO. One non-executive FCO board member also sits on the number 1 selection board. Membership of the number 2 selection board is drawn by rotation from the list of FCO Directors. FCO Directors and Directors-General are appointed to those positions on the basis of merit.

The Band D selection board appoints heads of mission in the delegated grades, that is those grades below the level of the senior civil service. This board is chaired by the Human Resources Assistant Director for Operations. Its members are volunteers at SCS level, who are required to have experience of working in our missions overseas as well as in UK positions. Their membership of the selection board is approved by the trade union side.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which towns his Department participated in *(a)* careers fairs and *(b)* community business events in order to extend the diversity among its recruits. [244271]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has participated in careers fairs at the following locations in 2007 and 2008. For the years previous to 2007, I refer to the answer of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 838W on careers fairs.

FCO attendance at careers fairs

Location	*2007*	*2008*
Durham	1	1
Cambridge	2	1
Manchester	0	1
London	1	2
Bath	0	1
Edinburgh	0	1

FCO Services, a trading fund of the FCO, attended two careers fairs in Milton Keynes in 2008.

The Department has not participated in any community business events in order to extend the diversity of its recruits.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1763W, on the Diplomatic Service: public appointments, what outreach activities have been undertaken in the last 12 months. [244447]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) takes a targeted approach to outreach activities, aimed at broadening the diversity of our work force, including through a new positive action programme, the Partner University Placement Scheme (PUPS).

The partner universities are Bath, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Kings College, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford and University College London, and were chosen because they scored highly both in terms of academic achievement and ethnic diversity and/or social inclusion.

The FCO also participates in Cabinet Office diversity internships taking students from the Summer Development Programme (SDP) and the Summer Placement Scheme (SPS). The SDP is an internship for students from a minority ethnic background and the SPS is for students with a registered disability.

The FCO has also attended:

Two university work experience fairs at Durham and Kings College;

Four university careers fairs at Cambridge, Edinburgh, Bath and Kings College;

The National Graduate Recruitment Exhibition in Manchester.

FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO, has attended two careers fairs in Milton Keynes.

These outreach activities were specifically targeted at the recruitment of candidates for vacancies and work experience schemes. All these events contained a strong message aimed at increasing the diversity base of those who apply for roles at the FCO.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for people appointed to senior posts in his Department on an ad hoc basis by selection boards appointed for the purpose in the last 12 months, how many went to *(a)* private school, *(b)* state school, *(c)* Oxford or Cambridge University and *(d)* other university. [244450]

Gillian Merron: Four members of staff at senior civil service level have been appointed in the last 12 months by open competition. Of these, two went to state school, one to public and one to both state and private schools. Three are Oxbridge graduates and one attended another university.

Embassies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff are employed at the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi to work on correspondence; and what the average response time to written correspondence to each embassy was in the latest period for which figures are available. [242541]

Gillian Merron: Information on the number of staff employed at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the high commission in New Delhi, at the trade and investment office in Johannesburg, and at the consulate general in Sydney working on correspondence, and the average response time to written correspondence, is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi on stationery in each of the last five years. [242542]

Gillian Merron: Information on the cost of stationery in each of the last five years at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the high commission in New Delhi, at the trade and investment office in Johannesburg, and at the consulate general in Sydney is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each of the last five years. [242543]

Gillian Merron: Details of the amount spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each of the last five years at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the high commission in New Delhi, at the trade and investment office in Johannesburg and at the consulate general in Sydney is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions held at the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi in each of the last five years were organised and funded by (i) trades unions, (ii) charities, (iii) businesses and (iv) other types of organisation; and what income each Embassy received from charges for the use of facilities for receptions in each of the last five years. [242544]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value is of the *(a)* wine and *(b)* other alcoholic drinks held in storage by the British Embassy in (i) Ottawa, (ii) Washington, (iii) Beijing, (iv) Tokyo, (v) Sydney, and (vi) Delhi. [242545]

Gillian Merron: Information on the value of wine and other alcoholic drinks held in storage at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the high commission in New Delhi, at the trade and investment office in Johannesburg, and at the consulate general in Sydney is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on alcoholic drinks for receptions at the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi in each of the last five years. [242546]

Gillian Merron: Details of the amount spent on alcoholic drinks at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the high commission in New Delhi, at the trade and investment office in Johannesburg, and at the consulate general in Sydney in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many receptions were held at the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi in each of the last five years. [242547]

Gillian Merron: Details of the number of receptions at our embassies in Washington, Beijing and Tokyo, at the High Commission in Delhi, at the Trade and Investment Office in Johannesburg, and at the Consulate General in Sydney in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what self-assessment is carried out by the British Embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi to avoid waste and promote efficient use of resources. [242559]

Gillian Merron: Effective financial monitoring and efficient use of resources is a high priority at all our posts overseas. The Head of Mission is responsible and accountable for oversight of the application of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's universal financial controls at that post, with the day to day management of post budgets being overseen by a management officer.

European Union: Civil Servants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which personnel of the devolved administrations EU office personnel have been on training or educational programmes run by his Department in each year since the establishment of each office; what the name of each programme was; and what the cost of each was. [242447]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ilois: Resettlement

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 699-700W, on Ilois: resettlement, when he expects the costs in the case of R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to be finalised; and if he will make public the information when it becomes available. [246288]

Gillian Merron: The costs of the respondent in the case of R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in the House of Lords on which judgment was given on 22 October 2008 have not yet been finalised. Subject to any unforeseen actions that arise in the court process, it is expected that the issue of costs be finalised in accordance with the applicable court procedures over the next few months. The information on costs will be made available to Parliament and to the public, assuming such disclosure is permitted by the courts.

India: Christianity

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of allegations that *(a)* the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and *(b)* the Rashtriya Swayamsesak Sangh are linked to the campaign of violence against Christians in Orissa; and if he will make a statement. [243226]

Bill Rammell: The Government are aware of reports that individuals from these organisations were involved in the recent violence in Orissa State. We are not in a position to verify this credibility. It is for the government of India and the relevant state authorities to investigate any such links and take appropriate action.

India: Terrorism

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Indian government on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. [242870]

Bill Rammell: Since the terrorist attacks in Mumbai my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has been in touch with Indian Foreign Minister, Pranab Mukherjee. He has expressed the UK's full support to the Indian government in its efforts to investigate the attacks and bring to justice those responsible.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Iraqi government to conduct an investigation into the alleged involvement of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in the recent assassinations of Christians in Mosul, and to publish all that investigation's findings. [246817]

Bill Rammell: The Iraqi government has established a high level investigatory committee to look into the violence in Mosul. We will discuss the findings with the Iraqi authorities when the report is completed.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Iraqi government to support the rights of Iraq's minorities by reinstating Article 50 in the new provincial elections law. [246820]

Bill Rammell: On 8 November 2008, Iraq's Presidency Council ratified an amendment that reinstated Article 50 in the new provincial elections law. The amendment provides guaranteed seats on provincial councils for Christians, Yezidis, Shabaks and Mandeans in Ninewa, Baghdad and Basra provinces in the forthcoming elections.

Israel: Prisoners

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions the UK's intelligence agencies have sought assurances from their Israeli counterparts on their humane treatment of detainees in the last five years. [244378]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made representations to the Pakistan government on the suspected death of Mr Rashid Rauf following a US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245655]

Bill Rammell: We do not have confirmation of the death of Rashid Rauf. Following a request from his family, we have requested official confirmation from the Government of Pakistan.

Russia: BBC External Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of staff employed by the Russian Service of the BBC World Service were previously employed in media posts in the former USSR. [245879]

Caroline Flint: All staff employed by the BBC, regardless of country of origin or background, have to meet robust selection criteria, and once working for the BBC must adhere to strict editorial policies and guidelines. The BBC does not keep specific information about their previous employment.

Russia: British Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the reductions to the British Council's regional network in Russia are, as referred to on page 28 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246263]

David Miliband: The reductions to the British Council's regional network referred to on page 28 of the Autumn Performance Report referred to the planned closures of the following British Council regional centres:

Irkutsk;
Krasnoyarsk;
Nizhny-Novgorod, Russia;
Novosibirsk;
Omsk;
Rostov-on-Don;
Samara;
Sochi;
Volgograd;
Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

In addition to this strategic reduction, the British Council suspended its operations in St. Petersburg and Yekaterinburg in 2008. The British Council now has a single office in Moscow, without walk-in public access. The resources from its former library and information centre in Moscow were handed over to the State Library of Foreign Literature and have been made available to the public.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people arrested and detained in Northern Sri Lanka in connection with the conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam since January 2008. [243162]

Bill Rammell: It is extremely difficult to obtain accurate, independent information about events in northern Sri Lanka where the armed forces are engaged in active military hostilities with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and so we have no credible information on which to base an estimate. We nevertheless continue to be seriously concerned about human rights across Sri Lanka, including reports of incidents of the targeting and mistreatment of civilians, intimidation of the media, abductions and disappearances, arrests and detentions and the internal displacement of the population by conflict.

UN Security Council

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has made a recent proposal to the Secretary General of the UN regarding the rotation of the countries holding a veto in the UN Security Council. [246218]

Bill Rammell: The Government have made no such proposal.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the UK last used its veto in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) *(a)* alone and *(b)* with one or more other members of the UNSC doing so at the same time separately or collectively, with other members of the UNSC. [246219]

Bill Rammell: The UK last used its veto alone in the UN Security Council on 29 September 1972. The UK last used its veto with one or more members of the UNSC on 23 December 1989.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the UK has used its veto in the UN Security Council (UNSC) *(a)* alone and *(b)* with one or more other members of the UNSC doing so at the same time in the last 20 years. [246220]

Bill Rammell: The UK has used its veto in the UN Security Council 30 times. It has used its veto alone five times. On the remaining 25 occasions, it used its veto at the same time as other members of the P5.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Zimbabwe, with reference to the recent riots and protests by the Zimbabwean Army; and if he will make a statement. [242181]

David Miliband: There have been outbreaks of violence by soldiers not being able to access their pay after banks appeared to run out of cash. This is a further illustration of the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe caused by the misrule of Mugabe's government. Restrictions on public meetings and marches persist. Abductions of individuals belonging to the MDC and others defending human rights continue to demonstrate that Mugabe has no intention of reform and genuine power sharing. The EU has unanimously condemned the current health crisis as being a consequence of Mugabe's misrule and has agreed to extend targeted measures against his clique. We are providing humanitarian support for those effected by disease and hunger. We will continue to work with the wider international community who are increasingly vocal in their calls for change in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on future action on Zimbabwe by the UN Security Council; what steps are next envisaged; and if he will make a statement. [243157]

Bill Rammell: We are pursuing all available options to encourage a resolution of the crisis in Zimbabwe, including further UN Security Council discussions. We will continue to ensure that Zimbabwe remains on the Council's agenda, and that it continues to press for an urgent end to the crisis. The Security Council discussed Zimbabwe on 15 December and we will press for further discussion in the coming months. Pressure from African leaders will also help to secure a change for Zimbabwe.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 15 January 2009

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many Airwave handsets issued to his Department have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to his Department have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246184]

Mr. Watson: No Airwave handsets issued to the Cabinet Office have been recorded as disabled due to loss, breakage or any other reason.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what procedures his Department has put in place to ensure that laptop computers on loan from his Department to civil servants in other Government Departments are accounted for; and who is responsible for their replacement if they are lost. [246307]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office operates appropriate controls to ensure the security, integrity and availability of data and IT equipment assets, and provides comprehensive IT security advice and guidance, including in exceptional circumstances where computers and laptops are loaned from my Department to civil servants in other Government Departments.

Should an IT asset be misplaced or lost, the incident will be recorded in the departmental theft/losses register and where appropriate, a replacement will be obtained. The Cabinet Office may be responsible for purchasing replacement items; however, individual evaluations will be made in each case.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* emails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244699]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [242910]

Mr. Watson: Investigations into the loss or unauthorised disclosure of information have to consider everyone with access to the information in question.

By its nature, the Cabinet Office holds information across the full range of Government activity.

Information about civil servants in the Cabinet Office included in investigations concerning the loss or deliberate disclosure of data and confidential information is not held centrally. Fewer than five staff working in the Cabinet Office at the time of loss or unauthorised disclosure of data or confidential information have been suspended or dismissed following such investigations since 1998.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008; [245317]

(2) how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract is held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245339]

Mr. Watson: The data handling report published on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 25-26WS, and the cross Government minimum mandatory measures, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House, define the responsibilities for safeguarding data. These stand alongside Data Protection legislation.

All Departments and agencies, or contractors working on their behalf, must comply with Data Protection legislation and adhere to these new arrangements. The Cabinet Office wrote to all its contractors and suppliers in September to confirm their compliance with these new arrangements and was assured that they did.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies is fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245381]

Mr. Watson: All ICT systems in the Cabinet Office are fully accredited to the Government's security standards.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246028]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office collects information on all the areas specified. Assessment of progress against diversity targets can be found in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 available from the House library, or Cabinet Office website

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/annualreport/dept2008.aspx

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [242266]

Mr. Watson: The following table lists the major IT projects my Department is currently undertaking along with associated cost and completion date estimates.

Project	*(i) Estimated cost (£ million)*	*(ii) Estimated completion date*
Flex Transformation (ISAAC Phase 2)	3.16	March 2009
HR/Finance/Procurement Shared Services (COSS)	7.7	May 2009
National Resilience Extranet (NRE)	1.8	Autumn 2009

Responsibility for the Government Gateway was transferred to DWP with effect from 1 April 2008.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in the Prime Minister's Office received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Office incurred in providing such coaching; in what languages such coaching was provided; and whether the Prime Minister has received such coaching. [248075]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office. Cabinet Office is committed to lifelong learning for all its employees and supports individuals throughout their learning and development.

All Cabinet Office units have delegated responsibility for spend against their training budgets and information is not collected centrally.

There has been no centrally organised coaching in a foreign language for Cabinet Office staff.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243722]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not yet available as the majority of the time period to which the expenditure relates falls within the current financial year (2008-09) for which the audited accounts have not yet been produced.

The Department's expenditure on goods and services in 2008-09 will be audited following the end of the financial year. The accounts are expected to be laid before Parliament prior to the summer recess 2009.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243580]

Mr. Watson: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246974]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-West (Rob Marris) on 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 248W.

Elderly

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office of National Statistics has made of the number of people over *(a)* 60 and *(b)* 80 years old there will be in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England in each year to 2015. [247598]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what the projected population aged over *(a)* 60 years, and over *(b)* 80 years is in (i) North Yorkshire; (ii) England in each year to 2015. (247598)

The attached table shows the projected population aged 60 and over and 80 and over for 2009 to 2015 for North Yorkshire and England. These data are taken from the 2006-based Subnational Population Projections published on 12 June 2008, and are the most recent projections available.

2006-based subnational population projections for persons aged 60 and over, and 80 and over, England and North Yorkshire 2009-15

Thousand

	2009	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*
England							
Persons aged 60 and over	11,521	11,705	11,872	12,037	12,205	12,380	12,552
Persons aged 80 and over	2,387	2,435	2,487	2,536	2,584	2,632	2,692

2006-based subnational population projections for persons aged 60 and over, and 80 and over, England and North Yorkshire 2009-15

Thousand

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Yorkshire							
Persons aged 60 and over	164	167	171	174	177	180	184
Persons aged 80 and over	34	34	35	36	37	38	39

Note:
The projections relate to mid-year
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Government Departments: Disclosure of Information

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role *(a)* the Cabinet Secretary and *(b)* his Department has in investigations of unauthorised disclosures of information from Government departments. [246146]

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the role of the *(a)* Cabinet Secretary and *(b)* his Department is in the investigation of unauthorised disclosures of information from Government departments. [246360]

Mr. Watson: The role of the Cabinet Office in leak investigations was provided to the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) by the Cabinet Secretary on 11 December 2008. A copy of the Memorandum was placed in the Libraries of the House.

Government Departments: Privacy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Government projects to date have had Privacy Impact Assessments commissioned. [241761]

Mr. Watson: Information on the specific Government projects where Privacy Impact Assessments (PIAs) are being conducted is not collected centrally. The Information Commissioner's office produces guidance on PIAs and is monitoring their uptake.

PIAs are a self-assessment tool for organisations and are not a statutory obligation for Government Departments. However, the Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008 recognised the value of PIAs and required that Departments apply them to new programmes or projects from July 2008 as part of their overall risk management approach to protecting personal data.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246130]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not hold central records on the number of its employees who have served prison sentences. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does not require applicants who have spent convictions under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 to provide details of those convictions when seeking employment. Applicants with current convictions are not precluded from taking up employment and each case is considered on the basis of individual circumstances.

Office of the Third Sector

John Bercow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding his Department has allocated to support the Office of the Third Sector in the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [247247]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) budget is published annually as part of the Cabinet Office Main Estimates and updated in the Supplementary Estimates.

The OTS is committed to invest at least £515 million in third sector programmes over the years 2008-2011.

Population

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were registered as resident in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each year since 1993. [247592]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question regarding how many people were registered as resident in (a) North Yorkshire and (b) England in each year since 1993. (247592)

The table below shows the estimated mid-year resident population of North Yorkshire and England for the years 1994-2007. The latest population estimates available are for mid-2007.

Mid-year population estimates, 1994-2007

Thousand

	England	North Yorkshire
1994	48,229	548
1995	48,383	552
1996	48,519	554
1997	48,665	555
1998	48,821	558
1999	49,033	562
2000	49,233	566
2001	49,450	570
2002	49,652	574
2003	49,866	578

Mid-year population estimates, 1994-2007

	England	Thousand North Yorkshire
2004	50,111	583
2005	50,466	587
2006	50,763	592
2007	51,092	596

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Private Detectives

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what use the Cabinet Office has made of *(a)* private investigators and *(b)* Risk Analysis UK Ltd. since May 2005. [244794]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office maintains a panel of independent investigators who can be called on to undertake internal investigations. The panel is made up of retired civil and Crown servants with investigation experience and retired senior police officers. The investigators are employed in a personal capacity to carry out investigations. No private companies are contracted to do this work. The Cabinet Office has never employed Risk Analysis UK Ltd.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245709]

Mr. Watson: We endeavour to adhere to the various guidelines recommended to us, such as those published by the Informability unit of the Central Office of Information, the Images of Disability guidelines of the Office for Disability Issues, and the See It Right guidance by Royal National Institute for the Blind.

However, the majority of Cabinet Office publications are distributed electronically through the Department's websites and we work to the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative guidance. We use specialist software for checking sites against colour vision and to simulate how images will look to users suffering from:

Deuteranopia (red/green deficiency), Protanopia (another form of red/green deficiency) and Tritanopia (blue/yellow deficiency)

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Equality

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff in the Equalities and Human Rights Commission work on community cohesion issues; and what estimate she has made of the cost of employing such staff in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the following two financial years. [245582]

Maria Eagle: The structure and business objectives of the Equality and Human Rights Commission are such that work on community cohesion issues is not specifically allocated to one team or group of staff and is spread across the organisation. The Commission do not, therefore, have cost figures for staff working in this specific area.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many former prisoners are employed by the Government's Equalities Office; and what the Office's policy is on the employment of former prisoners. [246333]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established in October 2007 and was formed of some 60 civil servants drawn from other Government Departments. The personnel records covering those staff are confidential to the original Department and are not accessible to GEO. The GEO began its own recruitment in December 2007. Since then, none of the 40 or so staff employed are former prisoners. The GEO adheres to the Civil Service Management Code and will employ former prisoners subject to satisfactory completion of character checks and security vetting.

TRANSPORT

A1079: Noise

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent assessment of the level of noise on the A1079 is; what assessment he has made of trends in noise levels over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [247319]

Paul Clark: No assessment of noise levels on the A1079 have been carried out in the last 10 years. There has been no requirement to undertake such assessment work. Up until 2002-03, the road was the responsibility of the Highways Agency but passed to the East Riding of Yorkshire council upon de-trunking.

Bus Services: Concessions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with representatives of local authorities facing funding shortfalls for the national concessionary bus fares scheme; what such meetings are planned; and if he will make a statement. [247444]

Paul Clark: To date, I have met Members of Parliament whose constituencies cover the following authorities to discuss funding of concessionary travel:

Scarborough Borough Council
East Riding of Yorkshire
Exeter City Council
Worcester City Council

In the coming weeks I am also due to meet with Members whose constituencies cover the following authorities :

Harrogate Borough Council
Fareham Borough Council
The Isle of Wight Council
Chesterfield Council

In addition to these authorities, departmental officials have either met or will shortly be meeting with representatives from the following local authorities:

Oxford City Council
Lancashire County Council
Bournemouth Borough Council

The Government remain confident that there is sufficient funding in total to meet the cost of the statutory minimum bus concession. The £212 million of extra funding that was provided to meet the additional cost of the extended concession is based on generous assumptions about fares, bus pass take up rate, extra journeys and additional operating costs. We will however continue to monitor the impact of the new concession.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) which local authorities have not received sufficient funding to meet their expenditure on the national concessionary bus fares scheme in 2008-09; and how much the shortfall is in each such case; [247445]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the difference between funding and expenditure on the national concessionary bus fares scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in 2008-09. [247446]

Paul Clark: We are confident that there is sufficient funding in total for the statutory minimum bus concession in England. The bulk of funding for concessionary travel is still given to authorities through the formula grant process (Revenue Support Grant) but it is not separately identified within that block grant. It is therefore not possible to identify how much individual authorities receive specifically for concessionary travel.

An additional £212 million is being provided by special grant this year solely to pay for the extension of the statutory concession to cover England-wide travel. Again, we are confident that this is sufficient in total and we consulted widely on the formula used to distribute it. Data on changes in authority expenditure caused by the new concession will not be available until autumn 2009.

We will shortly be consulting on possible changes to how concessionary travel is administered and any changes may provide an opportunity to consider how best to distribute the totality of funding.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from the Local Government Association about the adequacy of funding for the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [247447]

Paul Clark: Officials in the Department for Transport have had regular meetings with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding concessionary travel. The LGA and representatives from other tiers of local government are present at regular meetings of the Department's Concessionary Fares Working Groups.

I also met with David Sparks of the LGA on 13 January 2009 to discuss this issue.

Bus Services: EU Action

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the EU Commission's proposal for bus passenger rights on bus passengers; and what response the Government has made to the damage liability for operators contained in the proposal. [248089]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is currently preparing an initial impact assessment on the European Commission's proposal for a new regulation on bus and coach passenger rights, which will include an assessment of the costs and benefits to both passengers and operators. The Department will shortly be consulting on the proposal to help inform the Government's position and it is intended that the initial impact assessment will form part of that consultation. An explanatory memorandum (EM 16933/08) on the proposal was submitted to Parliament on 13 January 2009, copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were made to his Department since 2005; how many such requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by his Department in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [244834]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W.

Public Transport: Greater Manchester

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will undertake an assessment of means of improving public transport serving Manchester and surrounding areas in light of the recent decision on the proposed congestion zone. [247433]

Paul Clark: Following the decision not to proceed with their proposals for the Transport Innovation Fund, it is for the Greater Manchester authorities to develop a sustainable transport strategy that is affordable within the available funding streams. We will be working closely with them as they take this forward.

Traffic Lights

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department has *(a)* produced and *(b)* plans to produce for local authorities on the speed at which traffic lights change from amber to red; and if he will make a statement. [247997]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport issues guidance to highway authorities on the general principles of traffic control by light signals. Guidance is contained in Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/06 (TAL 1/06). A copy of the TAL 1/06 is available in the Library.

OLYMPICS

Dalai Lama

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will invite the Dalai Lama to attend the London 2012 Olympics. [245235]

Tessa Jowell: Guests and dignitaries are invited to attend the Olympic Games by the International Olympic Committee and participating National Olympic Committees, and the Paralympic Games by the International Paralympic Committee and participating National Paralympic Committees.

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by her Office had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244714]

Tessa Jowell: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence Departments should abide by the guidance as set out in 'Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies' which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005.

In respect of all other correspondence, we are unable to provide the information within the disproportionate cost limit (£750).

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Minister for the Olympics with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-37W, on Government departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* her Office and *(b)* computers in (i) her private office, (ii) the offices of its communications officials and (iii) the offices of her special advisers. [241958]

Tessa Jowell: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard good information security practise for corporate IT systems, not to publish internal IP addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Cabinet Office's internal office IT system are hidden behind the following IP addresses which are publicly available—195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government secure intranet.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to allow commercial organisations to seek the endorsement of the London 2012 Organising Committee for mass participation schemes. [243213]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* London 2012 official sponsors have the right to activate their sponsorship, including for mass participation initiatives. There are no plans to allow other commercial organisations to associate directly with the games, which would undermine the exclusive association for which the official sponsors have paid. In exceptional circumstances, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games and the International Olympic Committee may approve a project which has non-Olympic commercial support, provided they have absolute confidence the company will not gain any association with the 2012 games.

Non-commercial participation schemes inspired by the London Olympic games and Paralympic games, and offering opportunities in sport, culture, volunteering, education, the environment and the promotion of business opportunities, can apply to be part of the Inspire programme, London 2012's broad participation and legacy programme.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether *(a)* her Office and *(b)* the Olympic Delivery Authority have had discussions with modular building contractors on the construction of the athletes' village for the London 2012 Olympics. [243589]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Olympic Delivery Authority through their development manager and preferred developer, Lend Lease, have reviewed with modular building contractors and volumetric building contractors the use of their products in the development of the Olympic village. The selected procurement and delivery route involves the use of factory prepared modular building components to be assembled on site within a site prepared structural frame.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment has been made of the viability of using modular construction methods for the athletes' village for the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [243590]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The viability of using modular construction methods has been assessed in some detail. Many elements of the project have been considered for modular construction techniques, and many are being implemented. Elements considered include:

Facade Cladding Panels

Stairs and landings

Bathroom Pods

Services/Utility cupboard

Internal Walls

Fit out pre-packaged ceilings, floors, doors and joinery.

Electrics

Prefabricated Multi service Vertical Risers

Prefabricated Multi service Horizontal distribution runs

Service Distribution Modules

Roof Plant Modules

All of these elements are being developed in modular form to varying degrees for incorporation into the final product.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate she has made of the cost of construction of the athletes' village for the London 2012 Olympics; if she will estimate the cost of construction of the village using modular construction methods; and if she will make a statement. [243591]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The costs of developing the Olympic village are currently being reviewed taking into account elements of modular construction as appropriate. As the costs are the subject of sensitive commercial negotiations it would not be appropriate to disclose costings at this time.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of progress in construction of the Olympic Park and other Olympic venues; and what RAG system key has been assigned to the targets for performance on *(a)* budget and *(b)* timescale. [247380]

Tessa Jowell: The substantial progress that has been made both in the delivery of the venues and infrastructure and in the raising of funds to support the staging of the games means that, while recognising the risks, we remain in a strong position to manage delivery on time and on budget.

Progress across the whole Olympics programme is reported on a monthly basis to the Olympic board, including red, red/amber, amber green and green ratings against each element of the programme, including venues in terms of budget and time.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what dates since January 2008 the Olympic Delivery Authority contacted the Treasury Funders Group on access to the Olympic contingency fund. [247356]

Tessa Jowell: The funders group met in July 2008 to consider the impact that the economic downturn was likely to have on the Olympic village project and met again in October 2008 to review the situation further.

In December the funders group were requested via correspondence to approve the release of contingency to fund additional seating requirements in the handball arena and additional building works in the Olympic Stadium.

The next London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games annual report will be produced in the near future and will include fully updated financial information, including the outcomes of agreed contingency requests. Thereafter, we will publish a quarterly financial update which will include any changes to published budgets.

Olympic Games 2012: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what support is being provided to designated training facilities in the North East for athletes for London 2012 Olympics. [245861]

Tessa Jowell: The north-east region has 20 designated training facilities in the pre-games training camp guide from across the region offering 23 Olympic and Paralympic sports/disciplines.

The north-east regional coordinator for the 2012 games has brought all facilities' representatives together to develop shared plans and a marketing brochure to promote the north-east's sporting offer to National Olympic Committees and National Paralympic Committees competing in London 2012. The Coordinator is also working with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games on the wider nations and regions effort to market all UK facilities.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Occupational Health

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on counselling services for new recruits to the army over the last 10 years. [247558]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We estimate that the Army spent the following on counselling services for new recruits (Phase 1 trainees) for the last five years. Information is not available for previous years.

Period/FY	*£ million*
2007-08	7.357
2006-07	6.370
2005-06	5.020
2004-05	3.536
2003-04	3.621

Army: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals over the age of 50 years are serving in the Army, broken down by *(a)* regiment and *(b)* rank. [248159]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the numbers of Army personnel, aged 50 and over by *(a)* arm/service and *(b)* paid rank. Figures are shown by arm/service since this information is not collated at regiment level.

Table 1: Number of trained army personnel aged 50 and over by paid rank as at 1 April 2008

Paid rank	*Number*
Lieutenant General and above	[1]20
Major General	[1]40
Brigadier	[1]80
Colonel	[1]270
Lieutenant Colonel	[1]460
Major	[1]470
Captain	[1]10
Warrant Officer Class I	[1]40
Warrant Officer Class II	[1]60
Staff Sergeant	[1]20
Sergeant	[1]10
Corporal	[1]10
Lance Corporal	[1]10
Private	[1,2]—
Total	[1]1,500

Table 2: Number of trained army personnel aged 50 and over by arm/service as at 1 April 2008

Arm/service	*Number*
Staff	[1]400
Household Cavalry	[1,2]—
Royal Armoured Corps	[1]40
Royal Regiment of Artillery	[1]80
Corps of Royal Engineers	[1]100
Royal Corps of Signals	[1]90
Infantry	[1]190
Army Air Corps	[1]60
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	[1]30
The Royal Logistics Corps	[1]150
Royal Army Medical Corps	[1]40
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	[1]60
Adjutant General Corps	[1]80
Small Arms School Corps	[1,2]—
Royal Army Dental Corps Dental Officer	[1,2]—
Intelligence Corps	[1]20
Army Physical Training Corps	[1]10
Corps of Army Music	[1]20
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	[1]20
Long Service List	[1]110
Total	[1]1,500

[1] Provisional
[2] Zero or rounded to zero
Notes:
1. The figures are for trained Regular Army only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves, but includes those personnel that have transferred from GURTAM to UKTAP.
2. Due to the implementation of the new Joint Personnel Administration System all Army data from 1 April 2007 are provisional and subject to review.
3. All Officers of Paid Rank Colonel and above are included in staff regardless of late arm/service.
4. Figures have been rounded to 10; numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.' Due to the rounding methods used, totals may not always equal the sum of the parts.

Defence Equipment: Deployment

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for the deployment of the remaining 174 Mastiffs to Iraq and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [246217]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The delivery of the 174 remaining Mastiffs is expected to take place between spring and autumn 2009. Not all of these vehicles will be deployed on operations since some will be retained in a training pool.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decorations. [248092]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a large estate in the UK and overseas comprising many kinds of buildings. While the majority of the maintenance responsibility is now carried out by Defence Estates, this has not always been the case. Much of the maintenance is still carried out by others, including private finance initiative arrangements where maintenance elements are not readily identifiable.

There are no plans to carry out major programmes of decoration unless essential except where these are already part of contractors' obligations.

Ex-servicemen: Homelessness

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former service personnel have become homeless in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* the UK in each of the last five years. [247885]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not collect this information. Independent research was commissioned from the University of York by MOD and its colleagues in the Ex-Service Action Group on Homelessness (ESAG). The research found that the percentage of veterans among London's homeless population was 6 per cent. in 2007 compared with 22 per cent. in separate research in 1997. We are exploring opportunities for further research to find out the extent of veterans homelessness in the rest of the country.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his oral evidence to the Defence Select Committee on Tuesday 16 December 2008, what the out of service dates assumed in his Department's memorandum to the Committee for the *(a)* Agusta 109, *(b)* Apache AH Mk1, *(c)* Gazelle AH1, *(d)* Lynx Mk 7/9, *(e)* Lynx Mk 3/8, *(f)* Merlin Mk1, *(g)* Sea King Mk 4/6c, *(h)* Sea King Mk 5, *(i)* Sea King ASaC 7, *(j)* Chinook Mk2/2a, *(k)* Merlin Mk3.3a, *(l)* Puma HC1 and *(m)* Sea King Mk3/3a were, set out in tabulated format; what his most recent estimate of out-of-service dates is for each model; for what reasons the out-of-service dates have changed in each case; and on what date the decisions to change date were taken. [245850]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The most recent assumed out-of-service dates for each helicopter are shown in the following table. These dates have not changed since this information was given in the MOD memorandum provided to the House of Commons Defence Committee in November 2008. Where a life extension programme is planned to extend the out of service date of a helicopter but has not yet been approved at Main Gate, the resulting extended OSD is set out in brackets.

Any Main Gate decision to invest in the modernisation or enhancement of existing aircraft will need to be taken in a through life context, recognising the relative priorities within the whole Defence Programme.

The proposed adjustments in our planning assumption for out-of-service dates have resulted from work conducted during the Future Rotorcraft Capability programme and the 2008 planning round.

Aircraft type/mark	*Current planned OSDs*	*Comments*
Agusta 109	2009	It is expected these aircraft will be replaced during 2009 by four EC 365N3s
Apache	2030	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft (eg to address obsolescence and meet emerging requirements) during the next decade, in order to sustain its service life up to 2030
Chinook Mk2	2015 (2040)	We expect to have to invest further in these aircraft (eg to address obsolescence, meet emerging requirements and extend the planned date of their retirement to 2040) during the next decade, although no investment decisions have yet been made
Chinook Mk2a	2025 (2040)	As above
Gazelle	2012	Where there is an enduring requirement for the capability currently provided by Gazelle we are exploring arrangements based on leased aircraft
Lynx Mk3	2013	It is expected that these aircraft will be replaced by the Surface Combatant Maritime Rotorcraft (SCMR) variant of Future Lynx from 2015
Lynx Mk8	2015	As above
Lynx Mk7	2013	It is expected that these aircraft will be replaced by the Battlefield Reconnaissance Helicopter (BRH) variant of Future Lynx from 2014
Lynx Mk9	2013	As above
Merlin Mk1	2029	We are currently preparing to upgrade these aircraft through the Merlin Mk1 Capability Sustainment Programme
Merlin Mk3	2030	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft (eg to address obsolescence and meet emerging requirements) during the next decade, in order to sustain its service life up to 2030
Merlin Mk3a	2030	As above
Puma	2012 (2022)	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft to extend the planned date of its retirement to 2022, when it is expected that the capability provided by these aircraft will be replaced by the Future Medium Helicopter programme
Sea King Mk3/3a	2017	It is expected that the capability provided by these aircraft will be replaced by a joint PFI service with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Sea King Mk4	2012 (2018)	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft to extend the planned date of their retirement to 2018, where upon it is expected that the capability provided by these aircraft will be replaced by the Future Medium Helicopter programme
Sea King Mk6c	2010	—
Sea King Mk5	2017	It is expected that the capability provided by these aircraft will be replaced by a joint PFI service with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Sea King Mk7	2018 (2022)	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft to extend the planned date of their retirement to 2022

Military Bases: Waste Management

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military facilities are being made available for the storage of *(a)* domestic waste and *(b)* paper for recycling. [247161]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* In accordance with HM Treasury's Wider Markets Initiative, some defence land and property which is not required in the short to medium term is leased to third parties for commercial use, which might include the storage of waste. Details of such instances are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Engineers

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of relocating the Royal School of Military Survey; [247871]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of moving the 42nd Engineer Regiment, including the cost of the movement of the Regiment's headquarters; [247872]

(3) for what reasons the *(a)* 42nd Engineer Regiment and *(b)* Royal School of Military Survey are to be relocated; [247877]

(4) on what date he expects decisions on the movement of *(a)* 42nd Engineer Regiment, *(b)* its headquarters and *(c)* the Royal School of Military Survey to be announced. [247878]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The cost of moving 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) and its headquarters from Hermitage, together with 14 Sqn of the Regiment, located at Ayrshire Barracks, Moenchengladbach, Germany, is estimated to be £18.9 million (net present value over 25 years). A decision on the date for the start of the project is expected by March 2009.

The intention is for the Royal School of Military Survey to collocate with other intelligence training organisations at Chicksands, Bedfordshire. As the project is still in its initial stage, with the investment appraisal still to be completed, no confirmed date or cost is available. Any announcement on a date for relocation is unlikely before October 2010.

The relocations will not only improve operational effectiveness by collocating intelligence capabilities at RAF Wyton and intelligence training at Chicksands, but will enable significant long term savings in estate management and support costs.

The MOD will work to minimise the impact on civilian staff at Hermitage by providing any assistance it can to those who may be affected, relocating personnel and avoiding compulsory redundancies wherever possible.

Weapons: Theft

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases there were of British servicemen and women being disciplined for stealing armed forces' weapons *(a)* abroad and *(b)* within the UK in the last 12 months. [246127]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Thefts of weapons are investigated by the service police, Ministry of Defence police or the Home Department police, either jointly or independently. We do not hold comprehensive information about all cases referred to the civil courts and so the information provided is based only on cases tried by courts-martial during 2008.

No service personnel have been court-martialled specifically for stealing armed forces weapons abroad or in the UK. However, 10 service personnel have been court-martialled for offences involving the theft of ammunition; being in possession of various items ranging from weapon parts to blank rounds of ammunition, plastic explosives and detonators; or the sale of weapon parts. Of these 10 cases, one was acquitted. In all other cases, sentences ranging from a £750 fine for possession of ammunition, to 15 years imprisonment and reduced to the ranks and dismissed with disgrace for selling SA80 rifle parts, were awarded.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Seasonal Labour

8. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from farmers on the availability of seasonal labour; and if he will make a statement. [247635]

Jane Kennedy: We have listened to the concerns expressed by the industry about shortages of seasonal labour and at the end of last year announced an increase in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme quota of 5,000 for 2009 bringing it up to 21,250.

Fishing Quotas

9. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to make changes to the fishing quota system; and if he will make a statement. [247636]

Huw Irranca-Davies: At present, I have no proposals to change the current quota management system.

The UK is actively engaged with the European Commission's current activities to reform the Common Fisheries Policy, which will include consideration of the quota and fisheries access management systems. I have publicly signalled my intention that the UK should play a leading role in shaping this reform and the future of the CFP.

Seal Products

10. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage EU action to ban seal products from entering EU countries. [247637]

Hilary Benn: A Commission proposal for a ban on the import of seal products into the EU was discussed for the first time by the Council of Ministers on 20 October. The UK supports a ban and we will work closely with the Council and other member states to introduce it as quickly as possible.

Horse Passports

11. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horses in England have been issued with passports. [247638]

Jane Kennedy: The National Equine Database records that approximately 682,000 (681,934) passports have been issued to horse owners in England.

Public Food Procurement

12. **Gregory Barker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on public food procurement. [247639]

Jane Kennedy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly raises the subject of public food procurement with his ministerial colleagues.

New Forest National Park Authority

13. **Mr. Chope:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of the New Forest National Park Authority; and if he will make a statement. [247640]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The New Forest National Park Authority has made good progress since its creation in 2005 and I believe it is now making a real contribution to the benefit of the area. The findings of the 2008 National Park Authority Performance Assessment, when available, will allow us to check that the authority is on track.

Farming: Competitiveness

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to improve the competitiveness of the farming industry. [247641]

Jane Kennedy: Over the last 12 months, the rural development agencies have begun delivering a £300 million programme of investment in improving the competitiveness of farming and forestry under the Rural Development Programme for England. The Rural Payments Agency's continued progress in making payments under the single payment scheme has helped farmers' cash flow. Reducing trade distorting subsidies helps farmers better respond to the demands of the market; the recent common agricultural policy health check took another step by reducing coupled payments and regulatory burdens on farmers.

Single Farm Payment

15. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the process for making single farm payments in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247642]

Jane Kennedy: Continued improvements in its systems and processes have enabled the Rural Payments Agency to make good progress towards its 2008 single payment scheme targets. Latest figures show that just under £1.1 billion (67.4 per cent.) has been paid to 84,039 claimants (78.9 per cent.)

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: West Sussex

16. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the amount of land designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty in West Sussex which will be excluded from the proposed South Downs National Park boundaries. [247643]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The final Inspector's Report, in respect of the re-opened inquiry, was received on 28 November. We are carefully considering it in detail, as you would expect.

At this stage it would not be appropriate to anticipate any decision on the creation of a park, or the extent of any park that may result.

Water Charges

17. **Mr. Borrow:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations his Department has received on water drainage charges for places of worship; and if he will make a statement. [247644]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State has received a range of representations from various groups regarding surface water drainage charges. The Government are, however, very aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and are looking at what can be done.

Asbestos: Soil Guidance Values

18. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the publication of soil guidance values on asbestos. [247645]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials have been in regular communication with the Environment Agency about the ongoing development of contaminated land guidance. The Environment Agency has been working closely with the Health and Safety Laboratory and the Health and Safety Executive to develop guidance on the investigation and analysis of asbestos in soil which it plans to consult on in the first half of 2009. It is likely that this guidance will supersede the proposed Soil Guideline Value.

Inshore Fisheries

19. **Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the development of the inshore fisheries sector. [247646]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My aim is to achieve the vision, set out in "Fisheries 2027", of a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable inshore fishing fleet. The measures announced in December to help stabilise the fleet were a critical first step to delivering this. The Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries project will build on this foundation, beginning by developing a robust evidence base on the benefits of inshore fishing to help inform long term decisions.

Agriculture: Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to encourage consumers to purchase meat and dairy products produced *(a)* locally and *(b)* in accordance with (i) animal welfare and (ii) environmental regulations. [244682]

Jane Kennedy: While the Government believe that buying locally produced food is a matter of personal choice for consumers, we recognise that it can bring benefits to producers and consumers alike. We have helped to facilitate this choice by providing funding for a range of measures to help regional and local food producers, such as "meet the buyer" events, the encouragement of food hubs and shared distribution facilities, and training. Support is also available under Rural Development Programme for England for activities linked to the promotion of quality regional and local food, the use of native English breeds of cattle in environmental stewardship schemes and for activities linked to promoting the environmental sustainability of the livestock sector.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of Single Payment Scheme payments for 2008 have been made in England. [246103]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* As at 31 December 2008, single payment scheme (SPS) 2008 payments of over £967.6 million have been made to 69,187 claimants. This equates to 59.3 per cent. of an estimated fund value of £1.63 billion, paid to 64.99 per cent. of the estimated number of claimants of 106,500.

Brussels

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made by *(a)* air and *(b)* rail. [241257]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally by the core-Department, the following expenditure was incurred on visits to Brussels in the financial year April 2007 to March 2008:

	£	
	Air spend	*Rail spend*
Q1: April to June 2007	6,127.67	83,055.00
Q2: July to September 2007	3,312.93	49,527.00
Q3: October to December 2007	5,678.04	73,429.00
Q4: January to March 2008	2,542.03	83,067.00

From information held centrally by the core-Department, the number of visits to Brussels in the financial April 2007 to March 2008 was as follows:

	Number of air tickets	*Number of rail tickets*
Q1: April to June 2007	34	465
Q2: July to September 2007	21	285
Q3:October to December 2007	34	427
Q4: January to March 2008	16	481

All travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and departmental travel policy, which specifies the use of rail travel from London to Brussels, and London to Paris. Staff travelling outside of London are encouraged to explore rail over air travel where possible.

Climate Change

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address of each regional climate change partnership is; and whether such bodies are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [245895]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Contact names and e-mail addresses for the Regional Climate Change Partnerships are listed on the Government's Adaptation website:

www.defra.gov.uk/adaptation

as part of the 'Taking Action' section.

The Regional Climate Change Partnership is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), as it is not included in Schedule 1 of the FOI Act. It also does not appear to meet the necessary criteria, as laid out in the legislation, for a public body to be added to the FOI Act via a Section 4 Order.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245343]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has no contracts which allow the contractor to store personal data of UK citizens overseas. The DEFRA Agencies have one contract which relates to the control of animal disease outbreaks and allows for personal data to be stored in the Republic of Ireland. At present, information on less than 10 individuals is so held under this contract.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245361]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) was appointed on 28 February 2008 and is a Director General who sits on the Management Board.

Departmental Legal Proceedings

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many legal proceedings naming his Department as a defending party were *(a)* filed, *(b)* concluded and *(c)* dismissed in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) 2008 to date. [241191]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of legal proceedings naming the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as a defending party *(a)* filed, *(b)* concluded and *(c)* dismissed in 2008 are 58, 25 and 10, respectively.

For each of the five years before 2008, the resources needed to obtain the information would be disproportionate and over the £750 threshold.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243574]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records his Department maintains of its expenditure on *(a)* official hospitality and *(b)* alcohol for official hospitality. [240472]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The core-Department's financial system has an expenditure category for hospitality. The system has no expenditure category for alcohol for official hospitality. The core-Department's catering services provider does not hold a licence to serve alcohol. As a general rule, expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes is not allowed. Were alcohol to be purchased for hospitality purposes it should be acquired through formal purchase order, or through the Government

Procurement Card, both of which methods are subject to formal authorisation procedures. All expenditure, including that on hospitality, has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243352]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The core-Department's terms of payment for all valid, correctly rendered invoices submitted to the correct address(es) are 'within 30 days' or as otherwise contractually agreed, irrespective of organisational size.

On 8 October, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made a statement to the House that, in the current climate, the Government will aim to make SME payments within 10 days.

DEFRA, along with other central Government Departments, is aiming to pay all suppliers as soon as possible with the aim of bringing forward all approved payments to within 10 days. DEFRA is compiling 10 day payment performance figures for the month of November 2008 for BERR who will publish the data for November and December in due course. Commencing April 2009, 10 day payment performance will be reported quarterly.

For the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 the core-department's financial system records 10 day payment performance as 23.6 per cent. and 30. per cent. respectively (in comparison to 89.8 per cent. and 92 per cent. for 30 day payment performance).

Departmental Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency on waste management (i) for recycling and (ii) for landfill in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the overall budget this represents in each case. [240891]

Jane Kennedy: For the year 2007-08 we estimate that the internal cost of waste management for DEFRA, which includes its offices, depots, laboratories, sites etc, was in the region of £126,280 for that sent to recycling and £160,720 for that sent to landfill.

This equates to 44 per cent. of total expenditure for recycling and 56 per cent. of total expenditure for landfill.

For the year 2007-08 the Environment Agency estimates that the cost of waste management from its offices and depots was £43,580 for that sent for recycling and £60,130 for that sent to landfill.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 97W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, if he will publish the project specification of each of the three EU Interreg programmes listed. [246941]

Jane Kennedy: I am arranging for the information requested to be placed in the Library of the House. The Franco-British Interreg 3A programmes are the responsibility of the Government office for the south east, while the managing authority responsible for the Interreg 4A programme is the Haute Normandie Regional Council.

Floods: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 122W, on floods: housing, how many of the properties estimated to be at risk of flooding in each year are in each region. [244509]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Please find in the following table the estimated number of properties at the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea by Environment Agency Region.

Environment Agency Region	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Anglian Region	307,400	314,200	317,600
Midlands Region	214,300	222,300	222,400
North East Region	289,200	301,600	298,100
North West Region	204,600	210,000	210,900
South West Region	160,600	168,700	169,100
Southern Region	169,200	174,900	175,300
Thames Region	711,800	734,925	736,200
Environment Agency Wales	171,500	177,163	176,700
Total	2,228,600	2,303,788	2,306,300

The Environment Agency and DEFRA did not record properties by region before 2004.

The difference in the estimated number of properties at risk of flooding each year is mainly due to the improvements and refinements of the data and the modelling techniques used by the Environment Agency for the National Flood Risk Assessment.

Floods: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Mr. Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to investigate and help prevent instances of localised flooding, with particular reference to Newcastle upon Tyne. [244125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 17 December, in response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the floods in summer 2007, the Government announced how flooding issues will be tackled in the future.

Local action is already taking place in many areas of the country. The Environment Agency, Newcastle City Council and Northumbrian Water Limited have formed

a 'strategic co-ordination group' to investigate flooding across the Ouseburn Catchment and establish what measures may reduce the impact of future flooding across Newcastle City. The group is investigating possible improvements to the surface and foul water drainage systems, and potential alterations to bridges and channel capacity in the Gosforth area to alleviate the risk of flooding.

The Environment Agency have completed 54 new flood defences since June 2007 which has increased protection to around 38,000 properties.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responsibility for policy on fuel poverty is retained by his Department following the establishment of the Department for Energy and Climate Change. [242883]

Jane Kennedy: Responsibility for tackling fuel poverty now rests with the Department of Energy and Climate Change and, in line with general Government policy, the rural aspects of fuel poverty will be considered within the mainstream policy. Nevertheless, DEFRA continues to take a strong interest in this issue, as it does in all others affecting rural communities. In particular, we sponsor the Commission for Rural Communities which works closely with DECC and Ofgem on rural fuel poverty issues and which has set up a Fuel Poverty advisory group.

Geomatics Group

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on the Environment Agency, (1) what the expected *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit of the Geomatics Group in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 is; and if he will make a statement; [242786]

(2) what the *(a)* turnover and *(b)* profit of the Geomatics Group was in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [242789]

Jane Kennedy: The current anticipated total turnover of the Geomatics Group is:

	£
2008-09	4,789,000
2009-10	4,330,000
2010-2011	4,113,000

This includes work undertaken for the rest of the Environment Agency, which Geomatics makes no profit from. The level of profit on work undertaken for external customers is commercially confidential.

The total turnover of the Geomatics Group in 2007-08 was £3,565,000.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on the Environment Agency, what proportion of the profit made by the Geomatics Group was transferred to the Environment Agency in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [242787]

Jane Kennedy: Geomatics Group is a business unit within the Environment Agency and therefore 100 per cent. was transferred to the Environment Agency.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 98W, on the Environment Agency, with whom the Geomatics Group held contracts from which it derived income in 2007-08, broken down by contract value; and if he will make a statement. [242788]

Jane Kennedy: This information is commercially confidential, as releasing it could give a commercial advantage to other organisations.

Litter: Beaches

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of changes in the levels of beach litter since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [240922]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has made no direct assessment of changes in the levels of litter on beaches. However, DEFRA does provide grant funding support through ENCAMS (also known as Keep Britain Tidy) to the Blue Flag and Quality Coast Award schemes designed to drive up the quality of amenity beach areas. Furthermore, DEFRA also funds ENCAMS to undertake the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England which has monitored levels of local environmental quality across England since 2001.

Under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, councils have a duty to keep their relevant land, including beaches above the high water mark, clear of litter and refuse. The statutory Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse recommends those responsible for beaches regularly monitor them and develop an appropriate cleansing regime.

Recycling

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on the development of *(a)* water and *(b)* waste recycling facilities in each of the last three years. [245867]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA spent the following amounts on water saving initiatives and waste and recycling facilities in each of the last three years:

	£		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Water saving initiatives	4,294	158,339	416,498
Waste and recycling facilities	0	19,795	92,859

DEFRA includes water saving technologies in all its major refurbishment and new building projects, to ensure that every possible water saving efficiency is addressed at the earliest stage. Technologies that are widely used throughout the estate include: rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing; low flush toilets; waterless urinals; efficient showers and passive infra-red sensor taps.

Significant investment has also been made on DEFRA's laboratory estate to replace older inefficient autoclaves with more water efficient versions. (An autoclave is a device used to sterilise laboratory equipment. The process uses significant quantities of water to produce steam). DEFRA also has an ongoing programme of leak detection surveys throughout its estate.

DEFRA recently invested in new recycling bins and waste storage areas as part of its 'Bin the Bin' binless office programme initially across the London estate, to decrease waste arisings and increase recycling. This has been an award winning initiative which, wherever possible within the constraints of each site, is being replicated across the estate.

Regional Technical Advisory Boards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* name and *(b)* address of each regional technical advisory board is; and whether these bodies are classified as public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [245894]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The names and address of each Regional Technical Advisory Board (RTAB) are as follows:

The Secretary, East of England RTAB, East of England Regional Assembly, Flempton House, Flempton, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6EG

The Secretary, East Midlands RTAB, East Midlands Regional Assembly , First Floor, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, East Midlands, LE13 0UL

The Secretary, London RTAB, London Assembly, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA

The Secretary, North East RTAB, North East Assembly, The Axis Building, Maingate, Kingsway North, Team Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0NQ

The Secretary, North West RTAB, North West Regional Assembly, 4NW, Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan, WN3 5BA

The Secretary, South East RTAB, South East England Regional Assembly, 1st Floor, Berkeley House, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1UN

The Secretary, South West RTAB, South West Regional Assembly, Dennett House, 11 Middle Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 1SH

The Secretary, West Midland RTAB, West Midlands Regional Assembly, Regional Partnership Centre, Albert House, Quay Place, 92-93 Edward Street, Birmingham, B1 2RA

The Secretary, Yorkshire and Humberside RTAB, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly, 18 King St, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF1 2SQ

Regional Technical Advisory Boards (RTABs) are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), as they are not specifically listed in Schedule 1 of the FOI Act as a public authority. Furthermore it is unlikely that RTABs would qualify as such by virtue of their composition under any provision of that Schedule.

Sewers: Private Sector

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the transfer of private sewers and drains in England and Wales to the ownership of the statutory water and sewerage companies. [248242]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Privately owned sewers and lateral drains in England will be transferred to water and sewerage companies from 2011. The Welsh Assembly Government have outlined how the transfer will be implemented in Wales in its Policy Position Statement on Water which it launched for consultation on 14 January.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Fish

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the re-stocking with fish of lakes located within sites of special scientific interest. [247797]

Huw Irranca-Davies: When stocking fish into an inland water, prior written consent must be obtained from the Environment Agency who will assess the risk posed by each application to fisheries and the wider environment. Any application to stock a designated conservation site, is referred to Natural England and/or the Countryside Council for Wales.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications for Warm Front grants in Essex are awaiting determination; and if he will make a statement. [243814]

Joan Ruddock: At 19 December 2008, 183,537 applications for Warm Front were outstanding in Essex. Each of these applications is at a different stage of the process, and Warm Front is currently operating well within contractual waiting times in the Essex area.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter to him dated 4 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr A. Lane. [246527]

Joan Ruddock: Departmental reorganisation has led to delays in dealing with correspondence for which Ministers apologise. The letter is currently under consideration and a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

Wind Power

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many wind turbines are operational in the UK. [247879]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In terms of wind turbines under 100 kW ('microgeneration'), we assessed in our Element Energy research that there were 1,100 micro-wind turbines installed in the UK at the end of 2007. The research document can be downloaded at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/sustainable/microgeneration/research/page38208.html

The following table shows the number of wind turbines above 100 kW generating in the UK at November 2008.

	Number
Onshore	2,461
Offshore	149
Total	2,610

Source:
AEA Technology, January 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology: Manpower

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of field archaeologists made redundant in 2008; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such redundancies on the implementation of planning guidance. [243552]

Barbara Follett: Neither the Department for Culture, Media and Sport nor English Heritage collates data on the employment of field archaeologists. However, the Institute for Archaeologists, a professional institute for the study and care of the historic environment, is collating data on redundancies in 2008 and will make the information available in the future. The impact of any redundancies may include the potential loss of skills from the sector and pressure on standards in implementing planning guidance.

Arts: Finance

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much National Lottery funding Arts Council England has *(a)* received and *(b)* distributed in each year since its inception. [245889]

Barbara Follett: The table shows the total Lottery income and the amount of Lottery money drawn down by Arts Council England for each complete financial year, since the distributing body's inception. Drawdown from the National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) is used to pay funds to successful grant applicants and meet administrative expenses.

The figures are taken from the NLDF Annual Accounts. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

		Rounded to the nearest £000
Financial year	Total income	Drawdown
1994-95	48,894,000	865,000
1995-96	255,292,000	39,828,000
1996-97	262,109,000	134,147,000
1997-98	293,619,000	316,128,000
1998-99	232,099,000	320,057,000
1999-2000	202,349,000	208,815,000
2000-01	200,113,000	218,912,000
2001-02	207,923,000	218,297,000
2002-03	177,770,000	178,533,000
2003-04	161,124,000	182,631,000
2004-05	169,169,000	219,984,000
2005-06	171,941,000	191,968,000
2006-07	149,330,000	147,152,000
2007-08	151,450,000	151,310,000

Convergence Think Tank

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the Convergence Think Tank was *(a)* set up by his Department and *(b)* wound down. [247425]

Andy Burnham: The Convergence Think Tank was launched by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 21 December 2007. It was superseded by the Digital Britain project, announced by my noble Friend Lord Carter of Barnes on 17 October 2008.

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on *(a)* travel and *(b)* overnight expenses for (i) Ministers and (ii) guests attending the Creativity and Business International Network event held in Liverpool on 20 November 2008. [242437]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 11 December 2008]:* The total amounts spent were as follows:

(a) Travel: (i) Ministers was £85 by train (ii) guests was £11,330 by air and train

(b) Overnight expenses: (i) Ministers was nil (ii) guests was £3,257.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on hiring the venue for the Creativity and Business International Network event held in Liverpool on 20 November 2008. [242587]

Barbara Follett: The venue costs for the Creativity and Business International Network event held in Liverpool were £5,500.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the expenditure his Department will incur in supporting the Creativity and Business International Network in Hertfordshire in 2009; how much of that expenditure he expects to be incurred in relation to venue hire; and how the rest of the expenditure breaks down among budget headings. [242736]

Barbara Follett: The exact costs of venue hire and other areas of expenditure for the Creativity and Business International Network event at the Grove in Hertfordshire have yet to be finalised and will depend on many factors, including the number of delegates.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what agenda has been set for the Creativity and Business International Network event to be held in Hertfordshire in 2009; [242734]

(2) what conclusions were reached at the inaugural meeting of the Creativity and Business International Network; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting. [242737]

Barbara Follett: There was no formal minute taken of the meeting but a summary of the main outcomes will be put on www.cabinetforum.org in due course. The discussion at the first meeting of the Creativity and Business International Network in Liverpool on 20 November 2008 will be used to determine the broad themes for the network in 2009. This in turn will inform the agenda for the event in October 2009 which will be published in the new year at: www.cabinetforum.org

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department have duties relating to the Creativity and Business International Network. [242739]

Barbara Follett: A full-time equivalent of 1.4 staff within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have duties relating to the Creativity and Business International Network.

Culture: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to promote cultural activities in Coventry. [242639]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Arts Council England advises that, in 2007-08, it invested £1,722,974 in Regularly Funded Organisations in Coventry, and £215,463 in Grants for the Arts there.

English Heritage has invested more than £2 million improving the visitor experience at Kenilworth Castle, which annually receives nearly 100,000 visitors and over 12,000 people participating in educational activities.

The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum is receiving on-going investment from central Government, principally from the Renaissance programme that is managed by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [244665]

Andy Burnham: The full information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Details of formal, standing bodies set up by Government to provide independent expert advice to Departments and Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. These bodies, known as advisory non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), are listed in the annual 'Public Bodies' publication. Copies of 'Public Bodies' dating back to 1999 can be viewed and downloaded from the following websites:

1999-2006: <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp>;

2007: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3599.aspx>;

2008: <http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5125.aspx>.

Copies are also available up to 2007 in the Library for the reference of hon. Members.

Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the appointment of special advisers.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243046]

Barbara Follett: My Department has not used citizens' juries or randomly drawn panels to aid the Department's policy making since 2000.

Disability Reference Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects his Department's Disability Reference Group to report to his Department's Board on progress in addressing actions on disability. [240950]

Barbara Follett: The Department's Disability Reference Group met twice in 2008 and provided comments on the draft DCMS Secretary of State report on Disability Equality, published on 1 December 2008, which reported on progress in all DCMS policy sectors. The experience of members covers a broad range of sectors, including arts, sport, architecture, media, tourism and general access issues.

The Disability Reference Group has drawn attention to a number of issues and will submit a formal paper on progressing disability equality to the DCMS Board in early 2009, for discussion by April 2009.

Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on creating the cabinetforum.org website; what the expected annual running cost of the website is; and how many staff have responsibility for the site. [242586]

Barbara Follett: The website will develop and evolve over the course of the next 10 months in the lead up to the first Creativity and Business International Network Event in October 2009. The total cost up to that point, including development and running costs is expected to be £150,000. A full-time equivalent of 0.25 staff within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport are responsible for the website.

Internet: Bullying

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government plans to take to address incidences of cyber-bullying. [244891]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have introduced a comprehensive programme of work to prevent and tackle cyberbullying. We introduced legal provisions in the 2006 Education Act which gave school staff new powers to confiscate

mobile phones, and to discipline pupils for bad behaviour outside the school gate, including cyberbullying. We published detailed guidance for schools on how to prevent and tackle cyberbullying in September 2007, and have more recently produced a resource pack for school staff which includes a DVD and a booklet for teachers. We ran a digital information campaign on cyberbullying last year aimed at 12 to 15-years-olds, and re-launched the campaign as part of this year's Anti-Bullying Week. We are currently working with the Cyberbullying Taskforce including industry representatives, law enforcement agencies, the teacher unions and children's charities to produce new guidance to prevent and tackle the cyberbullying of school staff, which we plan to launch in spring 2009. We have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the cyberbullying guidance is effectively implemented on the ground, and that schools make effective use of the other materials.

Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the Convergence Think Tank's interim report on the future policy and legislative framework for the communications industries; and if he will make a statement. [240943]

Andy Burnham: The Convergence Think Tank (CTT) will report shortly on the key issues identified through its engagement with stakeholders. As announced on 17 October 2008, the CTT's work, together with other related initiatives, is being taken forward as part of the Digital Britain Report.

Media: Standards

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to send a substantive reply to the hon. Member for Torbay's letter of 14 July 2008 on the display of nudity in television programmes and in mainstream magazines. [245100]

Andy Burnham: The hon. Member's letter of 14 July was received in DCMS addressed to my predecessor on 17 October. I understand my noble Friend the Minister for Communications, Technology and Broadcasting wrote to the hon. Member on the 30 November.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the entry fees for the Cabinet War Rooms have been reduced to reflect the reduction in VAT to 15 per cent. [244785]

Barbara Follett: The Imperial War Museum has advised that the reduction in VAT to 15 per cent. has not been applied to admission prices for its branches that charge an entry fee: the Churchill Museum/Cabinet War Rooms; HMS Belfast; and Imperial War Museum Duxford. To apply the reduction would incur costs in re-printing publicity material and revising contracts with third-party ticket partners. Wherever possible, prices will be held at December 2008 levels and planned rises postponed. Where prices are increasing, these will be modest and in line with other market forces.

The Imperial War Museum has passed on the VAT reduction at shops in its branches and online, through collections licensing, corporate hospitality and for audio guides. Any increased revenue resulting from the VAT reduction will be directed towards the Museum's programmes of exhibitions, events, education and outreach work, and to maintaining its permanent displays and archives.

Public Libraries: Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council plans to publish its final guidance on controversial publications in public libraries referred to on page 25 of Preventing Violent Extremism: Next Steps for Communities. [245585]

Barbara Follett: The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) expects to publish its guidance on Controversial Stock in Public Libraries early in 2009. The guidance will be available on the MLA website once it has been published. The MLA will be supporting the sector in the use of the guidance by offering a series of free workshops in spring 2009, organised in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

Radio Frequencies

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps Ofcom is taking to remove radio interference affecting short wave users, with particular reference to that caused by *(a)* general powerline adaptors and *(b)* powerline adaptors provided by BT as part of their Vision system; and if he will make a statement. [242363]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Swimming

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department plans to provide to each local authority to provide free swimming in the first year of the scheme's operation. [243054]

Andy Burnham: Details of Government funding to participating local authorities to provide free swimming will shortly be placed on my Department's website and in the Library of both Houses.

Swimming Teachers' Association

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration he has given to consulting the Swimming Teachers' Association on future work and policy initiatives concerning swimming. [243961]

Andy Burnham: My officials recently met the Swimming Teachers' Association to discuss future work and policy initiatives concerning the Government's Free Swimming Programme. We will continue to involve them in future discussions as appropriate.

Swimming: Low Incomes

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure swimming access for people on low incomes. [247451]

Andy Burnham: Increasing overall participation in swimming, including access for people on low incomes, is one of the key aims of the Amateur Swimming Association's (ASA) strategic plan 2005-09. Sport England has contributed in excess of £9 million of Whole Sport Plan funding to this initiative.

Sport England awarded £3 million to the ASA to support its 'Everyday Swim' project during 2006-08. 'Everyday Swim' is a national project, operating at a number of sites across England. The aim is to deliver a sustained increase in participation, improving people's experience of using public pools, including those on low incomes.

In addition, the Free Swimming Programme is a £140 million coherent package designed to extend opportunities to swim and to maximise the health benefits of wider participation in swimming.

Swimming: Teachers

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure a sufficient supply of swimming teachers to staff its free access to swimming initiative. [247450]

Andy Burnham: We are working with Sport England, the Amateur Swimming Association and others on the detailed design and delivery arrangements for this initiative. We shall be announcing details of this shortly and in advance of the Free Swimming Programme's national launch in April.

Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of tourists from St Helena who have visited the United Kingdom in the last three years. [240844]

Barbara Follett: The International Passenger Survey, which randomly samples passengers entering and leaving the United Kingdom by air, sea or through the Channel Tunnel, groups St. Helena with the dependencies of Ascension Island and Tristan da Cunha, so there is no individual estimate for this individual island.

In 2007, 1,416 visits to the United Kingdom from these British Overseas Territory islands were recorded by the International Passenger Survey.

There is no recorded information from the International Passenger Survey for 2006 and 2008.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with HM Treasury on the implications of the value of sterling for the British tourist industry; and if he will make a statement. [247215]

Andy Burnham: My Department has not had discussions with Treasury on this matter but meets regularly with VisitBritain and hosted a National Tourism Summit in Liverpool on 8 January to consider the ways in which the effects of the economic downturn on tourism can be minimised. VisitBritain will publish its strategic review on tourism support in February 2009 and we are confident this will improve their ability to market Britain internationally and England at home. Recently, VisitBritain and VisitEngland launched a £6.5 million 'Value for Money Campaign'. This will build on the current domestic and international Enjoy England Campaign, which positions England and Britain as good value destinations.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government plans to make to the Iraqi government on violence against Christians in Iraq. [246815]

Bill Rammell: Ministers and officials will continue to meet representatives of the Iraqi government to discuss how Christians and all other religious communities can fully enjoy the freedom of worship enshrined in the Iraqi constitution, and are not subject to violence or intimidation. We will continue to advocate that those responsible for such attacks are held to account, regardless of their ethnic, political or religious affiliation.

I also welcome the continued work of my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd) in her capacity as the Prime Minister's Envoy for Human Rights in Iraq on the protection of minority communities.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make it its policy to support the creation of a self-governing province in northern Iraq linked to Iraq's central government situated in and around the Nineveh Plains and jointly governed by the Assyrian Chaldeans, Shabak, Yezidis and other ethnic groups living in that area. [246816]

Bill Rammell: As I said in the Westminster Hall Adjournment debate on 'The Christians of Iraq' on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 44 WH, any decisions regarding changes to the federal structure in Iraq are for the democratically elected Iraqi government and the people of Iraq to make.

However, dividing Iraq along ethnic, religious or sectarian grounds would be a vastly complicated and potentially volatile process as in many cities and areas of Iraq, people lived in ethnically and religiously mixed communities.

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Iraqi government to name publicly the suspects arrested for the recent targeted assassinations of Christians in Mosul. [246818]

Bill Rammell: The Iraqi authorities have made it clear that attacks against the Christian community are unacceptable. We have echoed that view publicly and privately in our discussions with them. Whether the suspects should be named is a matter for the government of Iraq, and the Iraqi judicial process.

We will await the findings of the Iraqi investigation until it is completed.

Libya: Terrorism

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with the Libyan government on compensation for victims of IRA terrorism involving arms originating in Libya. [247222]

Bill Rammell: The Government have taken regular soundings on Libya's position in respect of its past support for the IRA since the restoration of diplomatic relations, notably in 2004, 2006, in November 2007, and most recently through the United States in August 2008.

In 19 , Libya accounted for its past support of the IRA to the satisfaction of the then Government. On all subsequent occasions this matter has been discussed, Libya has stressed that it believes the matter is firmly closed. It is the Government's considered assessment therefore that Libya would not be prepared to discuss a bilateral settlement of these cases.

We will however continue to monitor the Libyan position on this issue.

Rashid Rauf

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Prime Minister was first informed of the suspected death of Mr. Rashid Rauf following the US air strike on the village of Ali Khel on 22 November 2008. [245659]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister first learned of the suspected death of Mr. Rashid Rauf from media reporting coming out of Pakistan.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps in the light of the blockade of Bangkok's two main airports to ensure that UK citizens who are caught up in protests or blockades in other countries can be *(a)* kept fully informed and *(b)* returned to the UK as soon as possible; and if he will make a statement. [240322]

Bill Rammell: As we did in Thailand following the blockade of Bangkok airports, we will use Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Travel Advice and the local diplomatic mission's website to provide practical, objective, accurate and up-to-date information to British nationals caught up in similar protests and blockades. We also encourage British nationals to register their overseas travel through the FCO's online travel registration system called LOCATE. British nationals can use LOCATE to tell us where they are travelling and register their contact details. It only takes a few minutes to register with LOCATE and the facility can be found on the FCO's website, alongside our Travel Advice pages. If a British national registers with LOCATE and an incident similar to the airport blockades in Bangkok occurs, our diplomatic mission in the country and crisis response teams in the UK can use the listed contact details to keep people fully informed.

During the disruption in Thailand we have been in close contact with airlines that have the majority of British ticket holders and have consistently encouraged them to lay on additional flights and honour their responsibilities to their ticket holders. As and when additional emergency flights were scheduled during the blockade, we passed on details of those British nationals who had contacted us to the flight organisers. We understand that many British nationals were able to leave Thailand as a result. Given a similar situation in another country we would expect to take all appropriate and necessary action to ensure British nationals are given similar assistance if required.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks of the management expenses bill levied by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in order to service its borrowings in respect of Bradford and Bingley and the Icelandic banks (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of (A) the pre-tax profits for the last three financial years, (B) the retail deposit balance sheet and (C) the total balance sheet of each type of organisation. [247179]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme is responsible for setting its levies subject to upper limits set in rules made by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). The FSA has published on its website:

www.fsa.gov.uk

a letter sent to the British Bankers' Association, the Building Societies Association and the Association of Foreign Banks on 31 December 2008 setting out some detailed information regarding the levies payable following recent deposit-taker defaults.

Child Benefit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claimed child benefit in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* Great Britain in each year since 1999. [247497]

Mr. Timms: For estimates of the number of families who were claiming Child Benefit in the areas requested as at the end of August in each year from 1999 to 2002, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 23 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 825W.

Corresponding estimates for each subsequent August from 2003 to 2006 are provided in the HMRC annual publication 'Child Benefit geographical statistics', available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit_geographical.htm.

Figures for August 2007 are not yet available.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many fathers are in receipt of child benefit; and what proportion of the total number of recipients this represents. [248106]

Mr. Timms: Only limited information is available. The most recent estimate is that some 7 per cent. of those on receipt of child benefit are males.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department's tests for potential entry to the euro were last used to make an assessment; and when the Government next plans to reassess performance against the tests. [248190]

Ian Pearson: The Government published the assessment of the five economic tests in June 2003. The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that

> "the Government do not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this budget."

The Treasury will again review the situation at Budget 2009 as required by the Chancellor's June 2003 statement.

Exchange Rates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of recent changes in the value of the pound against *(a)* the US dollar and *(b)* the euro on the UK (i) economy and (ii) tourist industry; and if he will make a statement. [247995]

Ian Pearson: Annex A of the 2008 pre-Budget report (Cm 7484) discusses the potential effects of exchange rate movements. The Government's objective is for a stable and competitive exchange rate in the medium term, consistent with meeting the inflation target.

Insolvency: EU Action

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the provisions of the EU Solvency II Directive; what assessment he has made of those provisions; and if he will make a statement. [244309]

Ian Pearson: The Government have supported the core principles of the Commission's proposal for the Solvency II Directive throughout the negotiations. In particular, capital requirements should be imposed on a consistent basis for all quantifiable risks and diversification effects should be recognised. These principles provide the basis for combining high standards of policyholder protection with value for money for consumers.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 October 2008 (reference: 3/07508/2008) from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on Mr. Mark Osborne of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; [247895]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 October 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on Mr. Peter Vickers of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; [247894]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter of 21 October 2008 (reference: 2/01979/2008) from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on Mrs. G. Fisher of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply; [247892]

(4) when he plans to reply to the letters of 27 October 2008 and 5 December 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford regarding Mr. M. Whitwell of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [247891]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been some delay in response. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Official Cars: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what public procurement contracts are planned involving the purchase of cars, vans and trucks over the next 12 months; and whether the vehicles purchased will be British-built in each case. [247026]

Mr. Timms: The majority of vehicles to be purchased by the public sector over the next 12 months will be made through the numerous existing framework agreements. There is no centrally-held list of those that are organisation-specific, but those in the following table are collaborative agreements listed on the OGC Contracts Database. The contracts are with a variety of suppliers and are based on best value for money. Some of the vehicles purchased through these contracts will be wholly or partially built in the United Kingdom, but it is illegal under EU procurement legislation to mandate British-only vehicles.

Lead Authority	*Contract*
Department of Work and Pensions	Motor Vehicle Purchase Framework Agreement
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation	Motor vehicles (Purchase of)
Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation	Commercial and Passenger Transport vehicles
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation	Specialist vehicles (Purchase of)

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the average full time equivalent pay and *(b)* the staff turnover rate of HM Revenue and Customs employees in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) each region of England in the latest period for which figures are available. [246366]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The mean Full-Time Equivalent pay (using available figures) for HMRC is estimated as follows:

(i) Scotland £22,054

(ii) Wales £22,789

(iii) Northern Ireland £23,567

(iv)	£
Eastern England	26,377
East Midlands	26,383
London	34,359
North East	21,940
North West	23,689
South East	27,236
South West	25,133
West Midlands	25,828
Yorkshire and Humberside	24,530

Revenue and Customs: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made (1) of the annual savings accruing to HM Revenue and Customs as a result of the closure of its Haverfordwest office; [247839]

(2) of the costs of closing the Haverfordwest HM Revenue and Customs office and relocating staff. [247843]

Mr. Timms: The closure of the HMRC office in Haverfordwest will contribute to estimated annual estate savings of £4 million in Wales. Specific estate savings for a particular office cannot be supplied for reasons of commercial sensitivity relating to the accommodation and facility contract between HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and its business partner, Mapeley.

Estate savings are only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve as a result of business efficiencies arising from restructuring.

While HMRC recognises that there will be short-term costs, including staff relocation costs, associated with the closure of Haverfordwest, reliable figures will only be established once solutions have been found for all staff and the building has been vacated.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many homes have attracted the zero rate of stamp duty on zero carbon homes in each month since October 2007, broken down by stamp duty band; [248101]

(2) how much stamp duty relief has been claimed since October 2007 in relation to zero carbon home purchases. [248102]

Ian Pearson: The Government have set a deliberately stretching target that all new homes must be zero carbon by 2016. The stamp duty land tax relief (SDLT) for zero carbon homes was introduced to help kick-start the market for new highly efficient technologies in homes, both for the fabric of the building and in the use of microgeneration, and sets a gold standard for green homes. Few currently exist, but the purpose of the relief is to act as a signal. We have always made it clear that the SDLT relief for zero carbon homes would evolve and we expect to see more of these homes built in the future. Eighteen homes have qualified for the zero carbon homes relief since October 2007, broken down by month and stamp duty band as follows. The total amount of relief given since October 2007 is around £70,000.

		Band (percentage)		
		1	3	4
2007	October	1	0	0
	November	2	0	0
	December	3	0	0
2008	January	3	0	0
	February	0	0	0
	March	1	0	0
	April	0	0	0
	May	1	1	0
	June	1	0	0
	July	1	0	0
	August	1	0	0
	September	0	0	0
	October	0	1	1
	November	0	0	0
	December	0	0	1

Tax Credit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claimed (1) working tax credits in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since their inception; [247498]

(2) child tax credits in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since their inception. [247499]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the average number of families benefiting from tax credits in each Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency, based on final family circumstances and incomes, are available in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised annual awards. Geographical analyses", for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

HMRC do not produce these statistics separately for child tax credit and working tax credit.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many business class, work-related flights taken by members of his Department's staff through the flexible travel scheme were *(a)* eligible for downgrade to economy class and *(b)* downgraded to economy class in January 2008. [245463]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* location, *(b)* duration, *(c)* purpose, *(d)* number of attendees and *(e)* date was of each of his Department's staff retreats in each of the last three years. [245464]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sight Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidelines his Department follows in respect of making printed materials and forms accessible to people suffering red/green colour blindness. [245720]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) seeks to follow COI Informability guidance wherever possible on the production and design of publications.

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will list the address of each property used for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service; [248084]

(2) how much has been paid to ClearSprings for the provision of bail and home detention accommodation since June 2007; [248085]

(3) if he will list the outward part of the postcode of each property used for the Bail Accommodation and Support Service; [248086]

(4) how many Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties there are in each Parliamentary constituency in England and Wales; [248087]

(5) how many *(a)* offenders on home detention curfew and *(b)* defendants on bail have used the Bail Accommodation and Support Service since June 2007. [248088]

Mr. Straw: ClearSprings has been paid £8.3 million for the provision of the Bail and Accommodation Support Service from June 2007 to the end of November 2008.

Lists of the outward part of the property post code for each property currently in use for this service and of the numbers of properties by constituency are set out in the following lists. However, we do not disclose the private addresses of defendants or offenders. The properties used in the Bail Accommodation and Support Service are the private rented homes of those receiving the service.

As at 12 January, 1,051 offenders on home detention curfew and 1,338 defendants on bail have used the Bail Accommodation and Support Service since June 2007.

Post codes

B18	B21
B18	B21
B18	B21
B18	B67
B18	B67
B18	BA2
B18	B69
B18	BB10
B18	BB11
B18	BB2
B18	BB9
B18	BH10
B18	BH8
B18	BL1
B18	BL2
B18	BL8
B18	BL9
B18	BS16
B18	BS24
B18	BS5
B18	BS5
B18	BS5
B18	CF11
B18	CF3
B18	CF5
B18	CR7
B18	CR7
B18	CR7
B18	CV6
B18	DE22
B18	DE23
B18	DE23
B18	DH1
B18	DH1
B18	DN17
B18	DN32
B18	DN5
B18	DN7
B18	DY1
B18	DY2
B18	DY2
B18	DY4
B18	E17
B18	E6
B18	E6
B18	E9
B18	EN8
B18	GL1
B18	HD2
B18	HP12
B18	HU5
B18	HX5
B18	IG1
B18	IP4 2
B18	L11
B18	L14
B18	L21
B18	L7
B18	LE2

LE3
LE3
LE3
LE4
LL11
LL13
LN6
LS12
LS7
LS8
LU2
LU3
LU4
M18
M24
M26
ME1
ME4
ME7
MK14
N12
N18
N22
N9
N9
N9
N9
NE24
NE32
NE4
NE4
NE63
NG2
NG6
NG7
NG7
NN1
NN18
NN2
NN2
NN3
NN5
NP19
NP20
NP20
NR1
NR5
NR5
NR6
OL1
OX3
OX3
PE2
PE2
PE4
PE4
PL2
PL4
PL4
PO2
PO2
PO4
PR1
PR2
RG1
RG2
RG6
RM10
RM13
RM8
S45
S65
S65
S75
SA1
SA1
SE23
SE25
SE25
SE6
SN1
SO15
SO18
SR3
SR4
ST3
ST4
ST4
ST5
ST5
ST6
ST6
SW16
SW16
TF1
TS17
TS18
TS4
TS5
TS5
UB1
WA10
WA4
WF1
WF13
WF13
WF2
WF9
WN2
WN7
WN8
WS2
WS2
WV3.

Constituency	Number of BASS properties at 13 January 2009
Barnsley West and Penistone	1
Bath	1
Batley and Spen	1
Birmingham, Ladywood	4
Birmingham, Perry Ban-	2
Blackburn	1
Blyth Valley	1
Bolton North East	1
Bolton West	1
Bootle	2
Bournemouth East	1
Bournemouth West	1
Bristol East	3
Broxbourne	1
Burnley	2
Bury North	2
Bury South	1
Calder Valley	1
Cardiff South and Penarth	2
Cardiff West	1
Chatham and Aylesford	1
City of Durham	2
Corby	1
Coventry North West	1
Croydon Central	2
Croydon North	3
Dagenham	1
Dagenham	1
Derby South	3
Dewsbury	1
Doncaster North	2
Dudley North	2
Dudley South	1
Ealing, Southall	1
East Ham	2
Edmonton	5
Finchley and Golders Green	1
Gillingham	1
Gloucester	1
Great Grimsby	1
Hackney South and Shoreditch	1
Hemsworth	1
Heywood and Middleton	1
Hornchurch	1
Hornsey and Wood Green	1
Huddersfield	1
Ilford South	1
Ipswich	1
Jarrow	1
Kingston upon Hull North	1
Kingswood	1
Leeds East	1
Leeds North East	1
Leeds West	1
Leicester South	1
Leicester West	4
Leigh	1
Lewisham East	1
Lewisham West	1
Lincoln	1
Liverpool, Wavertree	2
Luton North	2
Luton South	1
Makerfield	1
Manchester, Gorton	1
Medway	1
Middlesbrough	3
Newcastle upon Tyne Central	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2
Newport East	1
Newport West	2
North East Derbyshire	1
North East Milton Keynes	1
North West Cambridgeshire	2
Northampton North	4
Northampton South	1
Norwich North	1
Norwich South	3
Nottingham East	3
Nottingham North	1
Oldham East and Saddleworth	1
Oxford East	2
Pendle	1
Peterborough	2
Plymouth Devonport	1
Plymouth Sutton	2
Portsmouth North	1
Portsmouth South	2
Preston	2
Reading East	3
Rotherham	2
Scunthorpe	1
South Swindon	1
Southampton, Itchen	2
St. Helens South	1
Stockton South	2
Stoke-on-Trent Central	2
Stoke-on-Trent North	2
Stoke-on-Trent South	1
Streatham	2
Sunderland North	1
Sunderland South	1
Swansea East	1
Swansea West	1
The Wrekin	1
Tyne Bridge	1
Wakefield	2
Walsall North	2
Walthamstow	1
Wansbeck	1
Warley	2
Warrington South	1
West Bromwich West	2
West Lancashire	1
Weston-super-Mare	1
Wolverhampton South West	1
Wrexham	2
Wycombe	1

Court Orders: Compensation

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many compensation orders have been issued to offenders in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [248096]

(2) what the average value of a compensation order was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [248097]

(3) what the total monetary value of compensation orders issued by the courts was in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what percentage of this was collected by the courts and awarded to victims in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [248099]

Bridget Prentice: The available information shown in the following table shows the total number of compensation orders imposed, the average amount of those compensation orders and the total monetary value of those compensation orders in each of the last five years. Centrally held data do not cover the percentage of these orders that were subsequently collected.

Number of offenders ordered to pay compensation[1], average compensation amount and total sum of compensation orders imposed[2], 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Number of offenders	120,465	123,315	131,687	137,446	165,372
Average compensation amount[3] (£)	233	203	242	265	222
Sum of all compensation orders imposed (£)	34,091,595	25,032,945	31,868,254	36,423,190	36,323,584

[1] These data are not based on a primary disposal basis, a court can order to pay an offender to pay compensation alongside another, e.g. as well as receiving a community sentence an offender could be ordered to pay compensation to the victim.
[2] Excludes summary motoring offences.
[3] Rounded to the nearest £.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of compensation orders issued by the courts have *(a)* not been paid at all, *(b)* not been paid in full and *(c)* been paid in full in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [248098]

Bridget Prentice: The requested information is not held centrally. Data on the collection of compensation orders are not held by either the Ministry of Justice or HMCS. Information on the enforcement rate of financial penalties imposed by courts cannot make the distinction between compensation orders and other financial penalties.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246986]

Mr. Wills: The Department, and its agencies, use 42 0845 telephone numbers to provide a range of services to the public. These include IT support for online enquiries, customer service inquiries, contact with the jury summoning office and a small number of courts.

The 0845 numbers were introduced because, at the time, calls from anywhere in the UK were charged at a local rate making it cheaper for people to make contact rather than using the exchange number. With the expansion of the telecommunications markets, call charges are now set by the individual phone companies, often as part of wider service packages. The charges vary, and are outside the control of the Department. Where possible, customers are also given the exchange number, as depending on the individual inquirer's telephone plan, 0845 may not now be the cheapest option.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Government's response to the consultation on extending the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [246532]

Mr. Wills: The Government continue to assess the merits of designating additional public authorities under the Act and will publish their response to the section 5 public consultation by the summer.

Offenders: Penalty Notices

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* issued with penalty notices for disorder in (i) the Devon and Cornwall police force area and (ii) England in 2007. [246225]

Maria Eagle: Data reported to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform can confirm that the number of offenders cautioned in 2007 were as follows; 10,209 in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and 344,890 in England. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the above data. The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

5,703 PNDs were issued in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and 192,829 in England in 2007.

Probation Service for England and Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average caseload of probation staff was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the average caseload in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [246600]

Mr. Hanson: NOMS does not produce statistics on the average case load of probation staff. However, data are collected on the number of offenders supervised by the probation service and, separately, on the number of staff in post.

The total number of offenders supervised by the probation service on 31 March 2007 was 237,796. On 31 December 2007 it was 242,722.

This information is taken from the Probation Statistics Quarterly Brief, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm

No projections of case load are available. However, projections for the number of order and licence starts have been made. These are set out as follows:

Projected community demand (starts) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11

	Community order and suspended sentence order	*Licence supervision*
2008-09	197,500	46,200
2009-10	203,400	47,600
2010-11	209,500	49,000

The number of probation service staff in post for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are set out as follows. Data for the quarter ending 31 March 2008 are not yet available as they are still being validated. No projections of staff in post are available.

Probation service staff in post: 2006-08

2007-08[1]	*Q1 30 June 2007*	*Q2 30 September 2007*	*Q3 31 December 2007*
Probation officers[2]	8,038.95	7,973.80	8,257.54
Probation services officers[3]	6,280.56	6,304.56	6,221.76
Other staff	6,549.83	6,388.08	6,415.04
Total	20,869.34	20,666.44	20,894.34

2006-07[1]	*Q1 30 June 2006*	*Q2 30 September 2006*	*Q3 31 December 2006*	*Q4 31 March 2007*
Probation officers	8,083.97	8,064.97	8,343.64	8,265.35
Probation services officers	6,645.30	6,552.00	6,502.71	6,506.78
Other staff	6,309.82	6,531.73	6,524.63	6,473.53
Total	21,039.09	21,148.70	21,370.98	21,245.66

[1] Figures provided are full-time equivalent. Figures for Quarter 3 2007-08 have yet to be published and may be subject to minor amendment upon publication. Figures for Quarter 4 2007-08 are unavailable as they currently being validated.
[2] Includes senior practitioners, probation officers, practice development assessors, trainee probation officers and senior probation officers.
[3] Includes probation services officers and treatment managers.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Bullying

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children of school age experienced bullying in 2007-08. [247005]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We collect data on young people's perceptions of bullying through the annual TellUs survey. The TellUs 3 survey for 2007-08 showed that 48 per cent. of children and young people experienced bullying during the previous year, either in school or in another setting. The TellUs 3 statistics are published on our website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000828/index.shtml

We have introduced an indicator on bullying which underpins the Child Safety public service agreement (PSA 13, NI69), and made clear that we expect the proportion of children and young people who experience bullying to go down over the Spending Review period.

Child Safety Education Coalition

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Child Safety Education Coalition has been established. [247011]

Beverley Hughes: On 11 November 2008 the Government announced the award of a grant of £1,619,000 over three financial years to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in partnership with the National Children's Bureau (NCB) to establish a Child Safety Education Coalition.

Work is progressing well. RoSPA and NCB are recruiting and equipping a secretariat and identifying potential membership. My Department is agreeing with them full terms of reference and a statement of purpose document for the coalition. Key organisations with an interest in practical child safety education have been asked to attend a conference in February 2009 at which they will be invited to become members of the coalition. The membership of the coalition will then be formally announced and the coalition will confirm its priorities and plan of work for the period of the grant.

A copy of the press notice announcing the award of the grant to establish the coalition is available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website (http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2008_0249).

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service employees have management responsibilities; and what responsibilities were allocated to each employee payband *(a)* at the latest date for which information is available and *(b)* five years prior to that date. [246772]

Beverley Hughes: Employees who have management responsibilities as at December 2008 are detailed as follows:

	Number/percentage
Total number of staff	2,053
Number of staff with management responsibility	253
Proportion of staff with management responsibility (Percentage)	12.32

2008 job grade breakdown by payband	*2008 headcount*	*Percentage of total staff with management responsibility*
Senior Management including CEO	24	1.17
Heads of Service[1]	25	1.22
Service Managers	128	6.23
Office Managers	50	2.44
Specialist Staff	26	1.27

[1] The job grade "Heads of Service" was introduced as part of the major restructure of CAFCASS in 2007.

Employees who have management responsibility as at December 2003 are detailed as follows:

	Number/percentage
Total number of staff	1,896
Number of staff with management responsibility	305
Proportion of staff with management responsibility (Percentage)	16.10

2003 job grade breakdown by payband	*2003 headcount*	*Percentage of total staff with management responsibility*
Senior Management including CEO	29	1.53
Regional Directors	10	0.53
Service Managers	121	6.39
Admin Managers/ Senior Admin	145	7.66
Specialist Staff	0	0.00

Children in Care

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the implementation of his Department's Care Matters proposals; and if he will make a statement. [247255]

Beverley Hughes: The Care Matters implementation plan was published in March 2008, jointly with members of the Children's Inter-agency Group and other partners including Local Government Association including and Association of Directors for Children's Services. Since then:

We received Royal Assent in November 2008 for the Children and Young Persons Act which provides the legislative basis for many of the reforms.

We have launched nine sets of pilots set out in Care Matters and will shortly launch the Social Work Practices and the Social Pedagogy pilots.

Regional conferences have taken place across England to begin the implementation of care matters reforms. A number of regions are currently holding sub-regional conferences;

Future plans include:

Implementation of the Children and Young Persons Act along with supporting regulations and guidance, over the next year.

We will continue to work closely with partners across sectors to drive up improvements in outcomes for looked after children, building on the new inspection framework being developed by Ofsted, work by the Centre for Excellence in Outcomes and sector led initiatives.

We will review progress in an annual ministerial stocktake, with the first in autumn 2009. The stocktake will give us the opportunity to evaluate progress and ensure we are on track to deliver our aims for children in care. A short report will be laid before Parliament after each stocktake.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve the educational support and stability of life of looked-after children. [247470]

Beverley Hughes: Through the White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 the Government have put in place a range of measures to improve the educational support and placement stability of looked after children. This includes an annual personal education allowance of £500 for looked after children who are at risk of not reaching the expected standards of attainment.

To ensure that looked after children get the support they need to help them achieve their potential the governing body of all maintained schools will be required to appoint a designated teacher, and care leavers who undertake a course in higher education will be entitled to a bursary of £2,000.

We are also strengthening care planning arrangements to reduce disruption to education and training as a result of changes in care placements. Through initiatives such as the Fostering Changes training programme and the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care and Social Pedagogy pilots we are also taking action to help improve the range of support and skills for foster carers and residential workers to help them meet the needs of looked after children to prevent placement breakdown.

Children: Carers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided to the Children's Society to support professionals working with young carers in the last 12 months. [247000]

Beverley Hughes: Funding for the Children's Society's project to support and train professionals working with young carers is made available through the Department for Children, Schools and Families' Children, Young People and Families grant programme. In the last 12 months (from January 2008 to December 2008) the Children's Society has received £204,067.

The grant was awarded to enable the Children's Society in partnership with the Princess Royal Trust for Carers to draw together resources and guidance on good practice in supporting young carers and their families and, on the basis of that, to help train and inform social workers, health workers, teachers and voluntary groups in meeting their needs. The project also supports local authorities to take a whole family approach in the delivery of their support services.

Funding for the project as a whole covers three financial years running from April 2007 to March 2010. For the current financial year (April 2008 to March 2009), the agreed grant is £203,541, of which £152,655 has already been paid. In the financial year 2007-08, £206,651 was provided; in 2009-10, £208,472 has been awarded, bringing the total available for this project over the three year period to £617,644.

Children: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding streams he plans to include in the individual budgets for disabled children in the forthcoming pilots; and if he will make a statement. [247736]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We envisage that the majority of the funding supporting individual budgets in the pilot areas will be sourced from local budgets available to the Director of Children's Services and PCT managers rather than specific grants from DCSF. Determination of these budgets will be a local matter for both local authorities and partnering PCTs. There are however some local authority grants from Government which pilot areas may wish to incorporate. We will indicate in guidance to pathfinder areas that we would like them to explore how the Area Based Grant and the Aiming High for Disabled Children block within the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant can be utilised within individual budgets. Further funding streams may also be indicated at a later date.

Children: Human Trafficking

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps he has taken to improve the protection of children who may have been trafficked. [247384]

Beverley Hughes: The Government ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against the trafficking of human beings on 17 December 2008 as part of its wider strategy set out in 'UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking' and published in March 2007. In December 2007 the DCSF and Home Office jointly published guidance on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children who may have been trafficked.

Early identification is the key to protecting these vulnerable children, DCSF is therefore working with the Home Office and key stakeholders to develop a toolkit to help front line staff recognise the potential indicators of trafficking as part of a new National Referral Mechanism (NRM) being set up under the convention to protect all victims of trafficking.

In addition to this the DCSF has provided substantial funding for ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) to deliver training on child trafficking to front line practitioners dealing with children who may have been trafficked.

Children: Literacy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made under the Every Child a Writer programme; and if he will make a statement. [247395]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Improving standards of children's writing is a major priority for this Government, and will be vital in ensuring we reach our Public Service Agreement targets in 2011 for 78 per cent. of children to be reaching the expected level in English and maths.

Since September 2008 we have been piloting Every Child a Writer, a commitment from our Children's Plan, with funding of £25 million over three years. This programme aims to improve children's writing through leading teacher support for class teachers and intensive one-to-one tuition in the areas of writing children find hardest to master. Every Child a Writer is being piloted in nine local authorities and is due to scale up to reach all local authorities by 2010/11. From next year a further 60 local authorities will enter the programme.

In September we also launched new materials called Support for Writing for teaching children to write across Key Stages 1 and 2. This guidance and exemplification is available online through the Primary Framework, and is based on effective teaching strategies in the areas we know children find hardest about writing at the moment. The materials focus on ensuring children make good progress in their writing through outlining incremental small steps in learning within the year and specific classroom examples of how teachers might chose to approach each step.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to publish an evaluation of the National Year of Reading. [247397]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The 2008 National Year of Reading has been led on behalf of the Department by the National Literacy Trust, who will publish an evaluation in the spring 2009.

Children: Obesity

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to tackle obesity among children under the age of six years. [247516]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives" strategy, published in January 2008 set out the Government's comprehensive plans to reduce obesity—initially focusing on children. Every child should grow up eating well and enjoying being active and we want parents to have the knowledge and confidence to make this happen. There is no single, simple solution to reducing rates of overweight and obesity and therefore Government are taking action on a number of fronts.

The updated Child Health Promotion Programme was published in March 2008 and prioritises obesity prevention and physical activity through positive parenting during pregnancy and the early years of their children's lives while supporting families facing particular risk factors attributed to causing obesity. We are working to support as many mothers as possible to breastfeed and to continue to breastfeed for longer—helped by schools, children's centres, health and other services, all promoting healthy weight. The introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage for 0 to 5-year-olds means that all early years education providers must promote the good health of children, by providing healthy, nutritious food and active play. The Play Strategy, launched in December 2008, sets how Government will invest £235 million over 2008-09 to 2010-11 to develop play facilities for children of all ages.

Once children start school they can benefit from school food which must meet statutory nutritional and nutrient-based standards. Nine out of 10 children aged five to 16 now take part in at least two hours of high quality PE and school sport each week, compared to one in four in 2002. Nearly all schools are currently participating in the National Healthy Schools Programme with over two-thirds with full National Healthy School Status, having demonstrated they have in place the minimum evidence for 41 criteria across four themes: emotional health and well-being; healthy eating; physical activity and personal, social, health and economic education.

The National Child Measurement Programme, which weighs and measures children in reception year and year 6 is now in its fourth year and has a participation rate of 88 per cent. From 2008, primary care trusts can routinely feed back the results to parents. All this is supported by the Change4Life campaign which aims to help families eat well, move more and live longer and which is initially focused on families with young children.

Children: Protection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many preventable child deaths there were in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [247008]

Beverley Hughes: The reviewing of all child deaths by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) became mandatory in April 2008. We will shortly be collecting data on the number of deaths reviewed by each LSCB in 2008-09 and the number of these deaths which boards assessed as having been preventable. These data will be published in autumn 2009.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policy and practice of the Joint Chief Inspectors' report on safeguarding children. [247390]

Beverley Hughes: The Government published their full response to the joint Chief Inspectors' report on 15 December 2008. This accepted all of the recommendations on safeguarding. The report provided evidence of improvements in children's services and in outcomes for children and young people since the previous report in 2005, but noted that there was still more to be done to ensure that reforms were being implemented systematically by all local agencies so that children in every part of the country receive the protection they need.

On 12 November 2008 the Government announced that an independent report would be prepared by Lord Laming on progress being made across the country in implementing effective arrangements for safeguarding children. Lord Laming's work will address key features of good safeguarding practice and whether they are being universally applied across the country, including the development of the professional work force, inter-agency working and effective means of public accountability. Lord Laming will also look at what specific actions should be taken by national Government and other agencies to accelerate improvement across the country.

Children: Safety

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many home safety equipment schemes have been established in each region to date. [247391]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not collect information on this topic. However, information provided by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents suggests that there are around 760 local home safety equipment schemes operating in England. This information is not broken down by region.

In the Children's Plan the Government announced an £18 million National Home Safety Equipment Scheme to help disadvantaged families reduce the risk of accidents in the home. The National Home Safety Equipment Scheme will work with local partners in disadvantaged areas with the highest child accident rates to support the expansion of existing schemes and encourage the establishment of new schemes.

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin wrote to local authorities informing them of the Government's progress in delivering the National Home Safety Equipment Scheme on 21 October 2008. Since then, as part of a competitive tending process, the Department for Children, Schools

and Families has received and evaluated bids to host the Scheme. A contract to deliver the scheme will be awarded shortly.

Children's Centres

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have been awarded the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership to date. [247291]

Beverley Hughes: 1,051 people have been awarded the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership to date.

Classroom Assistants: Pay

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* nursery nurses and *(b)* teaching assistants employed in Slough have not been receiving equal pay compared to Slough Borough Council employees undertaking work of equivalent value in each of the last five years; what estimate he has made of (i) the number of women affected and (ii) the potential financial liability of Slough Borough Council; and when he expects the local authority to pay back-dated compensation to the women affected. [247795]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not held centrally. When setting staff remuneration it is for individual local authorities, as employers, to ensure that they comply with equal pay legislation.

Departmental Advertising

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advertising expenditure *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies have incurred in each of the last five years, broken down by budget heading. [248038]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Promotional campaigns, including those using advertising, are funded from the Department's central advertising and publicity budget and from individual programme budgets held by policy directorates.

Advertising is part of a fully integrated promotional campaign. The question refers specifically to advertising and we have been able to separate the Department's spend on advertising, as this is centrally placed through the Central Office of Information. The cost of recruitment advertising for the Department has not been included as it is not possible to establish a definitive figure, except at disproportionate expense. The Department's advertising spend and that of its predecessor (DfES) since 2004 is set out in the following tables, with a breakdown of individual campaigns. All figures exclude VAT. Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have their own separate funding streams and consequently administer and manage their own advertising expenditure.

DFES advertising billing 2004-05

£

Campaign title	*Media total*
EMA 2004-05	3,853,254
Sure Start Month 2004-05	127,902
Adult Basic Skills Gremlins 2004-05	4,664,833

DFES advertising billing 2004-05

£

Campaign title	*Media total*
Teenage Pregnancy (DFES) 2004-05	980,127
Student Finance 2004-05	886,727
Fast Track Teaching 2004-05	69,342
Foundation Degrees 2004-05	483,463
DFES Childcare 2004-05	281,269
Need to Know 2004-05	275,116
DFES Parents Centre 2004-05	172,284
DFES Total	11,793,417

DFES advertising billing 2005-06

£

Campaign title	*Media total*
DFES Sure Start 2005-06	2,527
EMA 2005-06	1,261,310
Teenage Pregnancy 2005-06	1,298,991
Childcare Recruitment 05-06	590,758
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins 2005-06	1,514,280
DFES Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins Miscellaneous 2005-06	125,687
Student Finance 2005-06	2,130,459
DFES Parents Centre 2005-06	142,771
ECM Press Advertising 2005-06	1,984
Foundation Degrees 2005-06	634,353
Fast Track Teaching 2005-06	17,806
DFES Parenting Franchise (Direct Gov Launch) 2005-06	439,878
DFES Education and Learning—Launch Campaign 2005-06	85,479
Need to Know 2005-06	53,971
DFES Total	8,300,254

DFES advertising billing 2006-07

£

Campaign title	*Media total*
Student Finance 2006-07	2,476,295
Adult Basic Skills 06-07	1,805,199
Teenage Pregnancy 2006-07	1,533,980
Childcare Recruitment 2006-07	404,664
Children and Young People's Workforce Insert 2006-07	45,123
Drugs—Frank 2006-07 (Home Office project also)	245,629
Total	£6,510,890

DCSF advertising billing 2007-08

£

Campaign title	*Media total*
Childcare 2007-08	134,943
City Challenge 2007-08	52,707
DCSF Sponsored Parenting Phase 1 2007-08	24,568
STEM 2007-08	285,075
MFL 2007-08	87,209
School Food Trust 2007-08	377,419
Frank 2007-08 (DCSF only)	632,533
Teenage Pregnancy 2007-08	1,499,163
Skills Pledge June 2007	34,781
Diplomas 2007-08	1,459,491
Total	4,587,889

Departmental Consultants

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on consultants by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body of the Department in each of the last three years, broken down by consultancy. [240633]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Consultancy expenditure for the former Department for Education and Skills for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is shown in table 1. Following the announcement of the machinery of Government change on 28 June 2007, which created the Department for Children, Schools and Families, consultancy expenditure for 2007-08 for the new Department is shown in table 2.

Consultancy expenditure can be attributed to individual suppliers only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: 2005-06 and 2006-07—Department for Education and Skills

	£ million
	Consultancy expenditure
2005-06	21.5
2006-07	45.1

A further £8 million in 2005-06 and £14 million in 2006-07 were expended on other external expert advisers on education and children's matters to assist with policy implementation and delivery.

Table 2: 2007-08—Department for Children Schools and Families

	£ million
	Consultancy expenditure
2007-08	61.4

A further £10.3 million was spent on other external expert advisers.

The Department does not hold information on consultancy expenditure for its non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [244730]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. The total cost on the provision of office facilities to press officers and special advisors during the last 12 months amounted to £240,758.90.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and its predecessors did not collect the information from 1997-98 onwards as requested and therefore it could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Responsibilities

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its target to increase the number of children in lower-income working families using formal childcare by 120,000 in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247467]

Beverley Hughes: The final assessment of this target will be based on the findings from the Department's 2008 Parents' Childcare Survey. The results of this annual survey will be available from April 2009.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [246990]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department currently has five services, accessible to the public, which operate using telephone numbers with the 0845 prefix: the Headship Information Line; the DCSF publications helpline, Prolog; the Fast Track Teachers Programme Support and recruitment team helplines; and the National Strategies Customer Service Helpdesk.

Education: Assessments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many responses were received to the consultation on Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment. [247246]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The consultation on Confidence in Standards was launched on 17 December 2007 and ran until 10 March 2008. The consultation received 80 responses.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assistance his Department provides to grandparents who act in loco parentis for their grandchildren; and if he will make a statement. [247047]

Beverley Hughes: Grandparents who care for their grandchildren are entitled to the same help from services as any other relative.

Education legislation makes no distinction between parents and other carers with whom the child is living with regard to service entitlement. Grandparents are also entitled to the same family support services as any parent. Family support services may be provided by a local authority under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area, including promoting the upbringing of such children by their families. These services may include financial help if that is the most appropriate way to meet the child's needs. If grandparents or any other relative are caring for a child who is looked after by the local authority, they will be approved as local authority foster carers and entitled to the same financial allowances and support services as any other foster carer.

We are also seeking to improve services and supports to relative carers through a number of measures as set out in the "Care Matters" White Paper. The Children and Young Persons Act, which received royal assent in November 2008 makes it easier for relative carers to obtain an order giving them parental responsibility for the child and to receive financial support on a longer term basis where this is seen to be the most appropriate way to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

Headteachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the report by Pricewaterhouse Coopers commissioned by his Department on school leaders. [247461]

Ed Balls: I welcomed the Pricewaterhouse Coopers report on school leadership. My Department has since provided funding of £10 million to the National College of School Leadership (NCSL) for succession planning. I have also made the development of new models of leadership one of the key priorities for the NCSL.

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what peer-designed materials are used within schools to ensure young people are aware of the implications of alcohol abuse. [247666]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect information on what peer-designed materials are used within schools.

Alcohol education should be delivered (along with other drug education) through well planned personal, social, health and economic (PSHEE) education. The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (DFES 2004) makes it clear that schools should work closely with pupils' parents and carers in the development of their drug education programme, so that it is relevant and sensitive to the needs and diversity of its pupils.

Health Education: Sex

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the review of sex and relationship education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [247257]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's response to the review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools was published on 23 October. A copy of the response is available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13030.

The Government believe all children and young people should receive a comprehensive, age-appropriate programme of SRE, to give them the knowledge and skills to make safe and healthy choices about sex and relationships.

National Curriculum Tests: Contracts

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether Ministers from his Department had access to the documents and information associated with the procurement of the contract with ETS Europe to deliver the key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests; [246274]

(2) whether Ministers from his Department were consulted on the terms of the contract drawn up between the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and ETS to deliver the key stage 2 and key stage 3 national curriculum tests. [246192]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the delivery of National Curriculum tests. The QCA Board took decisions on the procurement and award of contracts. Throughout the procurement process, officials from the Department for Education and Skills (DFES) participated as observers, commenting and asking questions. QCA shared copies of documentation with officials who offered comments. DFES observers did not have voting rights or decision making powers in relation to the procurement. The QCA Board approved ETS as preferred bidder on the 14 December 2006. Ministers were informed of the QCA's choice of preferred bidder on the same day, prior to the commencement of contract negotiations. Ministers were not consulted on the terms of the contract between QCA and ETS. Lord Sutherland has found that the procurement was sound but the QCA did not manage the contract it held with ETS effectively.

National Healthy Schools Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schools are involved in the Healthy Schools Programme. [245753]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As at 19 December 2008, 97 per cent. of schools were participating in the Healthy Schools Programme with 71 per cent. having achieved full Healthy School status.

National Safeguarding Unit

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector has been established; and if he will make a statement. [247383]

Beverley Hughes: Following a competitive tendering process, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has recently awarded a contract to deliver the National Safeguarding Unit for the Third Sector. An announcement on this will be made shortly. The Unit will be established and launched by March 2009.

Office of the Children's Commissioner

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding the Office of the Children's Commissioner received from his Department for financial years *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [247465]

Beverley Hughes: The annual budget for 11 Million (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner) is £3 million for both these financial years. The Children's Commissioner for England publishes his annual report and accounts, copies of which are laid before Parliament and available in the House Library.

Ofqual: Public Appointments

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will ensure that appointments to Ofqual will be subject to select committee scrutiny in line with the proposals on page 29 of the Governance of Britain Green Paper of July 2007. [247064]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government's response to the House of Commons Liaison Committee report on Pre-appointment hearings by Select Committees was published in June 2008 (ref: First Special Report of Session 2007-2008 HC594). It contains a revised list of all posts that the Government consider suitable for pre-appointment hearings by parliamentary Select Committees.

The post of chair of Ofqual, the new independent regulator of qualifications and tests which, subject to parliamentary approval will be established in the Children, Skills and Learning Bill in the current session, is included in the list.

Parents: Advisory Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the launch of the Parent Know How suite of services; and if he will make a statement. [247249]

Beverley Hughes: Parent Know How is a suite of services for mothers, fathers and other carers which consists of telephone helplines, text and instant messaging, web-based services and advice through print media, all of which became operational between April and October 2008. These services will be supplemented by a new online directory of local and national services available for parents due to go live in September 2009. The Department has recently advertised its intention to contract for a further round of innovative technology-enabled services and assets which should be developed later in 2009.

Pupil Exclusions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under the age of *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years were temporarily excluded from state schools in England and Wales for (i) attacking another pupil or teacher, (ii) having drunk alcohol at or before school or having alcohol with them and (iii) carrying an offensive weapon in each year since 1997, broken down by local education authority area. [241270]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of episodes of fixed period exclusion broken down by reason for each local authority is available as additional information to SFR 14/2008: "Permanent and Fixed Period Exclusions from Schools in England 2006/07" and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children between the ages of four and 11 years have been *(a)* suspended and *(b)* suspended more than once from school in (i) the Ribble Valley, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) England in 2008. [243269]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The information requested is shown in the following table for the latest period available.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3] pupils aged four to 11 receiving fixed period exclusions[4]

2006/07

	Number of pupils with one episode of fixed period exclusion	*As a percentage of the school population[5]*	*Number of pupils with two or more episodes of fixed period exclusion*	*As a percentage of the school population[6]*
Ribble Valley	44	0.45	23	0.24
Lancashire	623	0.61	380	0.37
England	29,413	0.66	18,686	0.42

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils aged as at 31 August 2006.
[5] The number of pupils with a fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
[6] The number of pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
Source:
School Census

Pupil Exclusions: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female pupils who were children in care received one or more fixed period exclusions in each of the last 10 years; [241716]

(2) how many pupils who were children in care were given a fixed period exclusion in the last 12 months, broken down by national curriculum year group; [241722]

(3) how many and what proportion of pupils in care were given *(a)* a permanent exclusion and *(b)* a fixed period exclusion in each of the last 10 years. [241738]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The OC2 data collection collects information on a range of outcomes for looked after children from local authorities. This information has been published in the Statistical First Release "Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, 12 months to 30 September 2007—England" (SFR 08/2008), which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml

This publication contains figures for the period 2005-07.

Information on exclusions from school can be found in table A which shows the number of permanent exclusions during the previous school year. The OC2 data collection is an aggregate data collection from local authorities and it is therefore not possible to provide this information broken down by national curriculum year group.

Information on exclusions for looked after children was first collected in 2000, figures for earlier years are also published on the Department's website and can be found via the following links.

Figures for 2002-04 are available in volume reference (03/2005) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml

Figures for 2000-01 are available in volume reference (DH/VOL(OUT)01) here:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000523/index.shtml

Pupil Referral Units: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will introduce legislative proposals to require local authorities to replace failing pupil referral units with a specified alternative. [247261]

Beverley Hughes: We intend to introduce the power for the Secretary of State to direct a local authority to replace a pupil referral unit that is in special measures with a specified alternative in the forthcoming Children, Skills and Learning Bill, which was announced in the Queen's Speech on 3 December 2008.

This will fulfil the commitment we made in the White Paper, 'Back on Track', which was published in May 2008.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made under the London Challenge initiative in addressing the needs of pupils who receive free school meals; and if he will make a statement. [247234]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since London Challenge was introduced the proportion of London pupils eligible for FSM who achieve five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and maths has risen from 22.2 per cent. in 2002 to 33.8 per cent. in 2008.

Pupils: Discipline

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children between the ages of four and 11 years *(a)* suspended and *(b)* suspended more than once from school in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) Essex and (iii) England in 2008. [243970]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The information requested is shown in the table for the latest period available.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3] pupils aged 4 to 11 receiving fixed period exclusions[4] 2006-07

	Number of pupils with one episode of fixed period exclusion	*As a percentage of the school population[5]*	*Number of pupils with two or more episodes of fixed period exclusion*	*As a percentage of the school population[6]*
West Chelmsford	53	0.57	45	0.48
Essex	816	0.68	558	0.47
England	29,413	0.66	18,686	0.42

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils aged as at 31 August 2006.
[5] The number of pupils with a fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
[6] The number of pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the headcount of pupils in January 2007, excluding dual registrations.
Source:
School Census

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last *(a)* met and *(b)* spoke to Mr. Ken Boston of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) about the QCA's work; and if he will make a statement. [245705]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State last met Dr. Ken Boston on 2 June 2008, in a meeting also attended by Sir Anthony Greener, former chair of QCA.

As Minister responsible for QCA, I have met and spoken to Dr. Boston on a number of subsequent occasions since that meeting.

Schools

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of giving International School Awards for those schools which have begun to integrate global issues and international awareness into the curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [247270]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The International School Award (ISA) is administered by the British Council on behalf of my Department.

In 2006, an OFSTED review concluded that:

"It was clear from scrutiny of the self-evaluation forms and the reports that in many schools which had an ISA a significant amount of teachers' and pupils' time was involved in international work. Almost all schools which had completed a SEF mentioned their international work or their ISA within it."

The report is available at:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Education/Leadership/Governance/Evaluating-internationalism-in-schools/(language)/eng-GB.

An evaluation report conducted for the British Council in 2008 found that there was:

"...strong evidence of the benefits that international work is bringing to the curriculum in schools and to pupils' engagement with learning."

I have placed copies of the evaluation report in both Libraries.

Schools: Transport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the specification for the Home to School Transport ICT solution has been developed alongside the process to appoint a solution supplier. [247205]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: An ICT functional specification, aimed at assisting schools in identifying travel needs, carrying out risk assessments and the approval and procurement of a transport solution, has been developed by contractors engaged by the Department. No decision has yet been taken to develop and implement a solution based on that specification or not, and no supplier has been commissioned to do so.

Secondary Education: Absenteeism

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made against the target to ensure that no local authority has more than five per cent. of its secondary school pupils as persistent absentees by 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [247412]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2007/08 (combined autumn and spring terms), eight local authorities (LAs) had persistent absence in maintained secondary schools of over 10 per cent., down from 14 in the same period of 2006/07, and 128 had persistent absence of over 5 per cent., down from 137 in 2006/07. 2008/09 (combined autumn and spring terms) data will be available in October 2009.

The National Strategies are providing intensive support and challenge to 42 LAs with high persistent absence, ensuring that all of the targeted schools in their authority are implementing agreed actions to reduce their absence rates. The National Strategies are also working with a further 59 LAs to improve their use of data to support and challenge schools with high persistent absence.

Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of schools has implemented a Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme. [247413]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data collected in July 2008 by National Strategies showed that about 80 per cent. of primary schools and about 30 per cent. of secondary schools have implemented a Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme. The Department expects that by July 2009 about 90 per cent. of primary schools and about 45 per cent. of secondary schools will have implemented a SEAL programme.

Social Workers: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the review of training and continuing professional development of the social care workforce under the National Minimum Standards review to be completed. [247278]

Beverley Hughes: The Care Matters White Paper sets out our plans for improving the training and support to foster carers and residential care workers. This commitment is also being taken forward by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) who introduced training, support and development standards to support foster carers from approval through the first two years of service. These give fostering providers a framework for their foster carers' training and professional development. CWDC are currently working with stakeholders to develop a professional development framework for social care workers, this will incorporate the foster care training support and development framework. CWDC are also developing core standards specific to residential care workers that will raise the quality of care and support a child can expect to receive in the home. We will be linking this work to the National Minimum Standards (NMS) as part of our review of the NMS. We will be consulting on changes to these during 2009.

Specialised Diplomas

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects diploma courses in *(a)* business, administration and finance, *(b)* hair and beauty, *(c)* hospitality, *(d)* environmental and land-based studies, *(e)* manufacturing and produce design, *(f)* public services, *(g)* retail, *(h)* sport and leisure and *(i)* travel and tourism to become available. [247241]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Diplomas in Business, Administration and Finance; Hair and Beauty Studies; Hospitality; Environmental and Land-Based Studies; and Manufacturing and Product Design will all be available for first teaching from September 2009.

The Diplomas in Public Services; Retail Business; Sport and Active Leisure; and Travel and Tourism, will all be available for first teaching from September 2010.

Teenage Pregnancy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy in meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement; [247256]

(2) what progress his Department has made against its target to reduce the under 18 conception rate by 50 per cent. by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [247468]

Beverley Hughes: The latest annual data (for 2006) show that since the 1998 baseline year, the under-18 conception rate has fallen by 12.9 per cent. to its lowest level for over 20 years. The 2007 annual data will be published in February 2009.

While I welcome the steady decline in England's teenage pregnancy rate, we need to accelerate progress if we are to achieve our challenging target to halve the under-18 conception rate by 2010. Consequently, we have issued guidance to all local authorities and PCTs, which sets out what is working in the most successful areas (some of whom have achieved reductions of over 30 per cent.) and encourages all areas to refresh their strategies to incorporate these findings.

At a national level, our focus is on:

close monitoring, strengthened performance management and intensive support to the most challenged areas;

maximising the use of the additional funding for improved provision and use of effective contraception; and

strengthened communications to young people, parents and delivery partners.

Young People: Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 17-year-olds participated in education and training in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [247478]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Estimates of participation in education for those aged 16-18 are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June and can be found on the Department's website (http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml). We estimate the numbers of 17-year-olds participating in education and training at the end of 2006 and 2007 were 537,400 and 555,100 respectively.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Admiralty House

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East paid rent in respect of his residence in Admiralty House during the period of time he resided there while not holding ministerial office. [246041]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 117W, and the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1023W.

The right hon. Member for Kingston upon Hull, East (Mr. Prescott) was not charged rent during the short period of time finalising arrangements to move and recovering from his illness.

Asylum Seekers: Homelessness

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* failed asylum seekers are registered as homeless in (i) Leeds and (ii) the UK. [247884]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government does not collect information on asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers who are homeless. Communities and Local Government collects data from all local housing authorities in England about their activities under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996), including the number of applicants accepted as statutorily homeless, but these data do not identify whether those accepted as statutorily homeless may be asylum seekers. Asylum seekers who claimed asylum after 2 April 2000 are not eligible for assistance under the homelessness legislation; neither are failed asylum seekers.

Community Relations: Departmental Coordination

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in each Government Office work on cohesion and integration related issues; and what the cost of employing these staff is expected to be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two subsequent years. [245520]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows the number of staff in each Government office working on the cohesion and integration agenda over the next three years with the related staff costs.

GO	*2008-09*		*2009-10 (est)*		*2010-11 (est)*	
	FTE	*£*	*FTE*	*£*	*FTE*	*£*
GO South West	2.2	69,249	2.1	69,648	2.1	72,157
GO South East	3.5	175,668	3.5	182,791	3.5	188,766
GO London	1	47,500	1	49,000	1	50,500
GO East	1.5	66,772	1.5	69,058	1.5	71,474
GO West Midlands	2.5	154,740	2.5	167,250	2.7	180,820
GO East Midlands	2.0	86,463	2.0	94,151	2.0	98,492
GO North West	1.3	62,360	1.9	95,339	1.9	98,829
GO Yorkshire and the Humber	1.0	47,518	1.0	49,319	1.0	50,658
GO North East	0.6	34,000	0.6	35,000	0.6	36,000
GO Network total	15.6	744,270	16.1	811,556	16.3	847,696

Council Housing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to allocate any surplus in the housing revenue account subsidy system in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 to housing for council tenants. [243888]

Mr. Iain Wright: The cost of running council housing varies across the country, and so we have a system which redistributes surpluses in some authorities to deficits in others. We have this system to ensure that rents remain affordable.

In recent years the system of council housing subsidy has been in deficit throughout the country, with the Treasury making up the shortfall. It is only from 2008-09 that the position has reversed with the overall system moving into surplus. In this financial year the Treasury plans to allocate around £5.9 billion in total for housing expenditure, considerably more than the resources flowing back to Treasury.

Communities and Local Government, jointly with the Treasury, is currently conducting a Review of Council Housing Finance, including looking in depth at key issues such as the cost of running council house stock, rents, management and maintenance costs, redistribution and the use of surpluses. The Review will report to Ministers in spring 2009, and will inform the next spending review with consultation thereafter .

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements of *(a)* the Minister for London, *(b)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the Minister for the South East in their role as regional ministers were from 1 December to 31 December 2008. [247732]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is tabled as follows:

Rt Hon Tony McNulty: Minister for London

Date	*Outline of visit*	*Location*
1 December 2008	Speech at the London PREVENT Network	Riverwalk House, Westminster
4 December 2008	OSCT Regional Event on PREVENT	Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, Westminster
8 December 2008	Association of Colleges (AoC) visit	Harrow College, Harrow
11 December 2008	London Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) Summit	New Scotland Yard, Westminster
15 December 2008	Speech at Celebrating Colleges Contribution to London event	House of Commons, Westminster
16 December 2008	Launch of the MPS announcement on work with retailers on knife sales	New Scotland Yard, Westminster
18 December 2008	Visit to JTAC (Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre)	Millbank, Westminster
18 December 2008	Meeting with the Metropolitan Police	New Scotland Yard, Westminster

Rosie Winterton MP: Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber

Date	*Outline of visit*	*Location*
4 December 2008	Meeting with John Blevins Lead Union Learning Representative, BT/CWU Learning Centre in Northallerton	London
5 December 2008	Attend Regional Responses to the Economic Downturn Event	Rotherham
8 December 2008	Attend Yorkshire and Humber Economic Development Group	Leeds
10 December 2008	Attend London 2012 Yorkshire and the Humber Parliamentary briefing	London
12 December 2008	Attend the Association of Colleges (AoC) Yorkshire and the Humber Principals and Chairs Forum	Doncaster
15 December 2008	Meeting with LloydsTSB	London

Jonathan Shaw MP: Minister for the South East

Date	*Outline of visit*	*Location*
2 December 2008	Speech and discussion at "Building Blocks" housing event with Shelter, National Housing Federation and Chartered Institute of Housing	London
2 December 2008	Meeting with SEEDA and Kimberly-Clark	Gatwick, East Sussex
2 December 2008	Speech at SEEDA Regional Infrastructure dinner	Gatwick, East Sussex
3 December 2008	Speech at turf-cutting ceremony for Kent Innovation Centre	University of Kent at Canterbury
8 December 2008	Speech at Placeshaper Housing Association reception	House of Commons
12 December 2008	Speech at event with young people and Beijing medallists re: 2012	Wentworth, Surrey

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use *(a)* her Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to her Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration her Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if she will make a statement. [247337]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government do not require the public to make telephone calls on numbers which charge more than the national rate. Neither Communities and Local Government or its service provider (Siemens) generate any income from calls. The only 0845 number used is the Neighbourhood Renewal helpline (0845 0828383). However, calls to this number are diverted to the main Communities and Local Government switchboard and are charged at a local rate to the caller. Later this year, CLG will introduce the new 0300 number range when it commences a new contractual telephony arrangement.

Fire Prevention

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Fire Kills campaign. [247392]

Mr. Khan: Provisional figures show that in 2007 there were 190 accidental dwelling fire deaths in England, down 18 per cent. from the 2006 figure of 233 accidental dwelling fire deaths. This is the lowest figure for accidental dwelling fire deaths in England since 1981.

The fire safety campaign has been running under the Fire Kills brand for the last 10 years and has been a pivotal part of the Government's success in reducing domestic fire deaths. The success of the Fire Kills campaign has been largely due to a series of national advertising campaigns, focused on the use and maintenance of smoke alarms. There is strong evidence that the public respond positively to the campaign's messages, and have bought smoke alarms as a result of them.

The most recent campaign, 'Pull Your Finger Out', first ran from January to March 2008. The smoke alarm industry reported a significant increase in sales during this period, while pre- and post-tracking research has shown that the percentage of people who could recall fire safety advertising without being prompted rose from 46 to 64 per cent.

Fire Services: Standards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to publish the Audit Commission's comprehensive performance assessment reports for 2006 on fire and rescue services in England. [248182]

Mr. Khan: The Audit Commission undertook a comprehensive performance assessment of fire and rescue authorities in 2005, the results of which were published in July 2005. The Commission followed this up with annual performance assessments of each fire and rescue authority, determining the extent of improvement or deterioration in service delivery over the previous year, how well the authority manages its finances and how effectively it plans and responds to emergencies and incidents.

The performance assessment for 2006 was published in April 2007 and the one for 2007 in January 2008. I understand that Commission is proposing to publish the annual performance assessment for 2008 next month.

Home Information Packs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effects of the cost of home information packs on people seeking to sell houses. [247180]

Margaret Beckett: The most recent assessment made of the effects of the cost of home information packs on people seeking to sell houses was independent research carried out by Europe Economics, published in November 2007. They found no evidence of any impact of HIPs on transactions and prices and only a short-term impact of HIPs on new listings which would be marginal compared to wider factors.

Homelessness: Economic Situation

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the effects on levels of homelessness of the economic downturn; and if she will make a statement. [247886]

Mr. Iain Wright: We allocated over £200 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector between 2008-09 to 2010-11 to tackle homelessness effectively. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness and rough sleeping services. The latest statutory homelessness statistics were published on 11 December 2008, and includes statistics up to the July to September quarter. This showed that local housing authority homelessness acceptances fell compared to the previous quarter and year, with 14,340 during the quarter, and the number of households placed in temporary accommodation has continued to fall, for the twelfth consecutive quarter, to 72,130 by the end of September.

We also recently announced a £200 million Mortgage Rescue Scheme to help vulnerable homeowners. This scheme is available to all local authorities and will aim to help up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable households avoid the trauma of repossession and possible risk of homelessness over the next two years. This scheme is now operational.

Alongside this, the new Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, which was announced in the Queen's Speech, will enable households that experience a significant and temporary loss of income as a result of the economic downtown to defer a proportion of interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years. The Government will guarantee the deferred interest payments in return for banks' participation in the scheme.

We will continue to monitor developments on all of the above in the light of the economic downturn.

Homelessness: West Yorkshire

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were recorded as homeless in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* the UK in each of the last five years. [247887]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. The Department does not hold statistics for the devolved Administrations. Local authorities within West Yorkshire are as follows; Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, and Wakefield.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information is also collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night.

Summary tables showing the total number of households (a) accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and (b) in temporary accommodation for each year since 1997-98, and (c) rough sleeper estimates for each year since 1998, for each local authority, were provided in my answer given to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1499-1500W, and are available in the Library. An extract showing data for the last five years for the local authorities within West Yorkshire is provided in the following tables:

Table A: Number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the year, in local authorities within West Yorkshire local council, 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bradford	1,038	903	603	868	837
Calderdale	502	[1]—	347	171	115
Kirklees	1,545	1,550	1,041	800	[1]—
Leeds	4,948	2,782	1,882	1,707	1,142
Wakefield	459	326	[1]—	165	136
England[2]	135,430	120,860	93,980	73,360	63,170

Table B: Number of households in temporary accommodation, in local authorities within West Yorkshire local council, March 2004-March 2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bradford	47	62	64	83	90
Calderdale	50	71	76	53	46
Kirklees	239	259	291	203	137
Leeds	748	501	502	548	401
Wakefield	235	242	131	94	78
England[2]	97,680	101,070	96,370	87,120	77,510

Table C: Number of rough sleepers (persons), in local authorities within West Yorkshire local council, 2004-08 (mid-year estimates)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bradford	0	0	0	0	0
Calderdale	2	0	0	0	1
Kirklees	0	0	0	3	0
Leeds	4	4	1	1	6
Wakefield	3	3	0	0	0
England	508	459	502	498	483

[1] Denotes data not reported by local authority
[2] Figures that include estimates of missing data

Figures for acceptances and temporary accommodation can be found in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 11 December 2008, and provides national and regional acceptance figures in table 3, and temporary accommodation figures in table 7, both back to 1997-98:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/840324.xls

English rough sleeper estimates and the count guidance are published and can be found at the following web address;

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/roughsleeping/

Liverpool Corporation Act 1902

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Secretary of State has in respect of the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902; and what responsibilities she has in respect of breaches of the Act. [248091]

Mr. Khan: The Liverpool Corporation Act 1902 makes certain provisions in relation to the Local Government Board whose functions, which were transferred to Ministers by the Ministry of Health Act 1919, are now exercisable by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (save for some health functions and Wales). Breaches of any Act, including the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902, are matters for the court.

Local Government Finance Division

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what working groups there are within her Department's Local Government Finance division. [245995]

John Healey: Local Government Finance division co-ordinates the following working groups:

Settlement Working Group

Capital Programmes Working Party

Central Local Information Partnership

Local Government Pension Scheme 111 Health Review Group

Firefighters' Pensions Committee

Local Government Pension Scheme Policy Review Group.

Minerals: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to planning guidance issued by her Department on mineral extraction since 1997. [246384]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following new or revised minerals planning guidance has been issued since 1997:

Minerals Planning Guidance Note 4 (MPG4): Revocation, Modification, Discontinuance, Prohibition and Suspension Orders—Town and Country Planning (Compensation for Restrictions on Mineral Working and Mineral Waste Depositing) Regulations 1997 (August 1997).

Minerals Planning Guidance Note 2 (MPG2): Applications, Permissions and Conditions (July 1998)/

Minerals Planning Guidance Note 3 (MPG3): Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal (March 1999).

Minerals Planning Guidance Note 5 (MPG5): Stability in Surface Mineral Workings and Tips (January 2000).

National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001-2016 (June 2003).

Minerals Policy Statement 2 (MPS2): Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England, including Annexes on Dust and Noise (March 2005).

Minerals Policy Statement 1 (MPS1): Planning and Minerals (November 2006).

In addition, national planning policies set out in a number of Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements published since 1997 may also be relevant to developments involving mineral extraction. My Department has also published practice guidance to support national planning policies set out in Minerals Planning Guidance Notes. These documents are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyguidance/mineralsandwaste.

National Community Forum

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the National Community Forum's main priorities are for 2008-09; how many staff the Forum employs; and what the annual running cost of the Forum will be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two following years; and if she will make a statement. [245524]

Mr. Khan: The National Community Forum's (NCF) current work programme focuses on two main areas; 'Anchoring Resources in the Community', which looks at approaches to social enterprise within local communities, and 'Community Wellness', which is developing an understanding of healthy, sustainable communities.

The NCF is made up of members who live or work in deprived communities across England. Their direct experience ensures that there is a broad range of knowledge and understanding of how policy works on the ground. From January 2009, there are 16 members, including the chair. NCF have recently appointed an interim advisor until April 2009, to help to ensure the Forum provides timely and credible advice to Government Departments by supporting members in their discussions.

The annual budget for NCF in 2008-09 is £130,000.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury on the subject of empty property business rates. [246048]

John Healey: The Department has no record of any representations from the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury in regard to empty property rates. However the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury has made representations to Her Majesty's Treasury in his role as Minister for the North East.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new valuations of British ports for business rates by the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* have been completed and *(b)* remain incomplete. [245992]

John Healey: Initial reviews of all 55 major ports in England and Wales have now been completed. The rating list has been updated for 50 of these. In the remaining five ports, the Valuation Office notified the ratepayers of its conclusions by 28 November, inviting them to discuss the proposed changes in advance of the rating list being formally amended—which it would expect to do no later than 31 January.

The Valuation Office must continue to maintain the rating lists throughout their five-year life to reflect changes affecting properties or their manner of occupation included within ports. As changes are identified which necessitate a revision of individual assessments, port ratepayers, like as any other business ratepayer, will again be notified of the Valuation Office's intentions and invited to discuss proposed changes in advance of the rating lists being formally amended.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1903W, on Travelling people: council tax, what guidance has been given to local authorities on whether unauthorised Traveller sites should receive rubbish collection services. [246039]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are responsible for the collection and disposal of waste in their local area. Communities and Local Government has not produced guidance on whether unauthorised developments and encampments should receive waste collection services. However, 'Guidance on Managing Unauthorised Camping', published in 2004, gives guidance on dealing with waste and fly-tipping when managing an unauthorised encampment, including the use of Codes of Expected Behaviour.

Local authorities may want to consider whether the provision of means to enable Gypsies and Travellers on unauthorised encampments to dispose of their rubbish and waste, for an appropriate fee, is appropriate in individual circumstances. Such action was recommended by the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement and could help to minimise costs to the authority.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans the Department of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland has for action in civil recovery; when these will be implemented; and what budget has been set aside for such civil recovery work in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [243927]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Director of Public Prosecutions. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Correspondence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* e-mails received by his Department had not been responded to as at 15 December 2008. [244708]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. Information relating to 2008 will be published as soon as it has been collated. The report for 2007 was published on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 71-74WS. Reports for earlier years are available in the Library of the House. When responding to all correspondence the Department abides by the guidance as set out in 'Handling correspondence from MPs, Lords, MEPs and Members of Devolved Assemblies' which was published by the Cabinet office in July 2005.

(b) To retrieve the information relating to emails can only be achieved at a disproportional cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245326]

Mr. Simon: *(a)* All of the Department's suppliers and contractors who handle personal or sensitive data comply with Government security procedures, and the Data Handling Procedures in Government report.

(b) The agencies have passed on the requirements to their contractors, and are monitoring their progress towards full compliance.

New contracts placed by the Department or its agencies will incorporate the advice issued following the Data Handling report.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245347]

Mr. Simon: The controls in place ensure that contractors do not store personal data overseas.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245365]

Mr. Simon: The Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO) was first appointed in February 2008. The SIRO holds a Director General position.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245389]

Mr. Simon: For systems that require accreditation according to Government's security standards:

(a) All systems (100 per cent.) fully accredited.

(b) All systems at the National Weights and Measures Laboratory are accredited. At the Intellectual Property Office, all externally facing and 3rd party provided systems are accredited. Accreditation of the internal systems is ongoing.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243717]

Mr. Simon: The Department has spent £3 million on the Student Finance Campaign for the year 2008-09.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [246977]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not offer any 0845 numbers.

The Department is responsible for two agencies: National Weights and Measures Laboratory and the UK Intellectual Property Office.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory does not offer any telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers for public access to services.

UK Intellectual Property Office offers three 0845 numbers. The caller incurs a local rate charge which is set by their service provider.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what entitlement individuals over the age of 25 wishing to study a course at a further education college have to *(a)* grants and *(b)* income-dependent loans. [243373]

Mr. Simon: Individuals over the age of 25 studying in further education colleges can apply for an Adult Learning Grant which pays up to £30 a week for those on low incomes studying full-time for a first full Level 2 and for a first full Level 3 qualification.

There is no Government funded income contingent loan scheme available for students undertaking FE courses. Students may apply for Career Development Loan which is a commercial loan where the Department pays the interest during the period of learning. Students who wish to study on HE courses, including foundation degrees, delivered at FE colleges are eligible to be assessed for support under the HE package of maintenance grants and loans for living costs.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what advice on funding is available to individuals over the age of 25 wishing to study a course at a further education college. [243374]

Mr. Simon: Every adult in England can access free information and advice about careers, learning and work, including help about funding available for those wishing to study at a further education college, such as Adult Learning Grants, Career Development Loans and discretionary support for additional costs of learning such as child care and transport costs.

Advice and support is available by telephone or online through the national Careers Advice Service, or face to face from local nextstep services. All learners participating in LSC funded learning can also receive information and advice from their learning provider.

Higher Education: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he plans to take to maintain the international reputation of the UK's higher education sector. [247970]

Mr. Lammy: We have a world class system of higher education in this country, with rising student numbers, high levels of student satisfaction and graduate employability, and an increasing world share of citations and high-impact research papers. Government investment in higher education is 23 per cent. higher than in 1997. That is in sharp contrast to the 36 per cent. fall in funding per student in the previous 10 years. We have also doubled investment in research.

As part of our debate on the future of higher education, we have received contributions from a range of individuals and organisations in the sector. These contributions stress the importance of internationalisation, and of ensuring that we maintain our leading position in higher education internationally.

We want to ensure that our higher education system remains world class, and we are clear that international competition will increase. To do this we need to have a long-term approach. We will publish a framework during 2009 which will set out our vision for higher education over the next 10 to 15 years. However, it will not be a rigid plan: it will be capable of being adjusted over time as the world changes, but will set a compelling vision of long-term success.

Institute for Animal Health Pirbright Laboratory

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much capital expenditure was incurred for each separate project of works at the Institute for Animal Health Pirbright Laboratory in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date. [240667]

Mr. Lammy: The capital expenditure incurred for each project at the Institute for Animal Health Pirbright Laboratory from 2007-08 to date is set out in the following table.

IAH Pirbright capital works

£000

Project	*2007-08*	*April to October 2008*
PSRP		
New Lab construction	486	—
Preliminaries on new lab	5,604	2,125
I5011	3,918	364
Drainage (Vacuum)	397	1,380
ETP containment	112	—
Insectary	22	—
Services	9	—
Infrastructure works	682	185
IAH project costs	1,646	677
Others		
Modular laboratory	—	393

Learning and Skills Council: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the adult Learning and Skills Council budget for *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Greater Manchester, *(c)* the West Midlands and Birmingham and *(d)* London was in the latest year for which figures are available. [247548]

Mr. Simon: The London Adult Skills budget for 2009-10 was set out in the latest Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council published on 18 November 2008; as £635 million.

The Adult Skills budget allocations process for 2009-10 is currently underway. This involves discussions with FE Colleges and providers, partners and other organisations which will inform final decisions. This ensures that the needs of the local communities are met and that the activity delivered supports the Council's key priorities and targets. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with further information including the most up to date figures. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246341]

Mr. Simon: The Department undertakes employment history, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Disclosure Scotland checks as appropriate. If these checks identify any issues around people with criminal records then suitability for employment is considered with the Department's interest paramount. In addition, all individuals recruited to a regulated post, or to a post where they have access to personal or sensitive data about children or vulnerable adults are subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Although the information is used as part of the recruitment process, we do not then transfer any details on criminal records to the central personnel record and as such the information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent on such schemes in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (y) his Department and its predecessor and (z) each of his Department's agencies. [242252]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created in 28 June 2007. Since its inception, there were seven early releases in 2007-08, at a total cost of £512,000 and two in 2008-09 at a total cost of £90,000. There are currently no early releases planned for 2009-10. Information related to costs is not available in the form requested and could be obtain only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has two agencies. The National Weights and Measures Laboratory has not had any early releases during the period requested and none are planned during 2009-10. However, UK-IPO has had early releases. Since 2005-06, 58 people have left under voluntary exit schemes, including four to 31 October 2008 in 2008-09. The breakdown of the value of payments was (i) 24, (ii) 17, (iii) 6, (iv) 2 (v) 9.

On an accruals basis there were 53 departures for 2005-06 costing £2,571,000, none in 2006-07 and one in 2007-08 at £55,000. Approximately 89 are expected in 2008-09 at an estimated cost of £6,865,000. There are currently no early releases planned for 2009-10. Information related to costs is not available in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the average maintenance grant payment to eligible undergraduate students was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [247130]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is as follows:

Average Higher Education Grant and Maintenance Grant (£)[1]

	2005/06	2006/07	England 2007/08
Higher Education Grant[2]	870	890	890
Maintenance Grant[3]	n/a	2,010	2,090

[1] Figures rounded to nearest £10.
[2] Average amount for those awarded a Higher Education Grant.
[3] Average amount for those awarded a Maintenance Grant.

The Maintenance Grant for living costs was introduced in 2006/07, replacing the Higher Education Grant for new entrants.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what procedures are in place for informing *(a)* students and *(b)* recent graduates about the change to student loan interest rates implemented on 5 December 2008. [247131]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) published details on the change to student loan interest rates implemented on 5 December 2008 on their website and in national newspapers. Borrowers receive details of new interest rates in their statement each year from the SLC. Information on the interest rate change was also published on the Directgov website.

Following the latest reduction in the Bank of England base rate by the Monetary Policy Committee on 8 January 2009, all the specified banks[1] have now reduced their base rates to 1.5 per cent. The SLC has therefore now reduced the interest rate for income contingent loans from 3 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. with effect from 9 January 2009 until further notice. The SLC has accordingly published this information on their website and in national newspapers.

The interest rate for loans taken out before 1/9/98 (known as "mortgage style loans") is not affected as these loans are governed by different legislation.

[1]Bank of England; Bank of Scotland; Barclays Bank PLC; Clydesdale Bank PLC; Co-operative Bank PLC; Coutts & Co; HSBC Bank PLC; Lloyds TSB Bank PLC; Natwest Bank PLC; the Royal Bank of Scotland PLC.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Alcoholic Drinks: Sales

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with pubcos on their policy in providing discounts on beer sold to *(a)* traditional pubs and *(b)* supermarkets. [247159]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* I have not met with Pubcos to discuss their pricing policies. This is a commercial matter for the businesses concerned. Ensuring that markets operate freely and fairly is a matter for the independent competition authorities, rather than for Government. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has the powers to investigate and take action if companies are abusing a dominant position in a market or behaving anti-competitively, including referral to the Competition Commission.

Electric Cables

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* volume and *(b)* monetary value was of imports to the UK of fire-resistant electric cable from (i) the EU, (ii) non EU countries and (iii) China and India in each of the last five years. [247117]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not available because the system of classification used to record trade does not separately identify fire-resistant electric cable.

The UK's imports of all types of electrical wire, cable and other conductors, are as follows:

	£ million	Metric tonnes
2003		
Total imports	1,140	325,039
EU27 countries	971	204,412
Non-EU countries	169	121,427
China	71	37,279
India	5	3,705
2004		
Total imports	1,282	353,392
EU27 countries	857	216,763
Non-EU countries	425	136,630
China	72	37,696
India	7	4,116
2005		
Total imports	1,298	337,313
EU27 countries	798	186,995
Non-EU countries	500	150,317
China	84	40,312
India	15	6,049
2006		
Total imports	1,658	371,404
EU27 countries	968	194,184
Non-EU countries	690	177,310
China	122	44,763
India	26	8,194
2007		
Total imports	2,024	442,594
EU27 countries	1,216	243,583
Non-EU countries	808	199,011
China	153	49,990
India	36	8,888

Note:
Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) 773.1—Insulated electrical wire, cable and other conductors, with or without connectors

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mrs McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Waste Directive; with what outcomes; and if he will make a statement. [242801]

Ian Pearson: This Department has worked consistently with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. DEFRA have more recently played a key role in the review of the UK WEEE system announced in July 2008. We will continue to work closely with DEFRA, as the UK WEEE system matures, to ensure that we maximise the separate collection of WEEE within the UK and reach the highest standards of treatment and reprocessing.

Non-profit Making Associations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many social enterprises there are in each region *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 10,000 population. [244861]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent figures suggest that there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. Social enterprises are not, however, defined by a particular legal form and as a result are not required to register with any one body. Information on the number of social enterprises in each region is, therefore, unavailable. Based on the most recent estimates, there are about 11 social enterprises per 10,000 adult population (over 16 years).

Official Visits: Russia

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 471W, on official visits: Russia, if he will place in the Library the list of the Secretary of State's engagements during his visit to Russia in October 2008. [246762]

Mr. Thomas: A copy of the list of my noble Friend the Secretary of State's engagements during his visit to Russia in October 2008 will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Overseas Trade: Libya

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of British *(a)* exports to and *(b)* imports from Libya was in each of the last five years. [247221]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Libya are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK export of goods to Libya	UK import of goods from Libya
2003	241	202
2004	216	196
2005	211	356
2006	203	592
2007	232	580

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Libya	UK imports of service from Libya
2006	167	56
2007	194	88

Small Businesses: South East

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small and medium-sized enterprises there were in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough, *(c)* Eastleigh Borough and *(d)* Romsey constituency in each of the last five years. [243917]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of the number of small to medium-sized enterprises are not available below the regional level in each of the last five years.

Only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT are published by BERR. It is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and a further 1.7 per cent. will be medium-sized (with 50 to 249 employees).

The number of businesses registered for VAT in Southampton Unitary Authority, Test Valley and Eastleigh local authorities and Romsey constituency for the start of 2004 to the start of 2008 is shown in the following table.

Start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses, 2004-08

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Southampton Unitary Authority	4,770	4,845	4,945	4,990	5,070
Eastleigh	3,970	4,095	4,195	4,300	4,465
Test Valley	4,550	4,660	4,715	4,765	4,895
Romsey Parliamentary Constituency	3,575	3,630	3,650	3,685	3,755

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007' available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Southampton Unitary Authority rose from 4,770 at the start of 2004 to 5,070 at the start of 2008.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Eastleigh rose from 3,970 at the start of 2004 to 4,465 at the start of 2008.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Test Valley rose from 4,550 at the start of 2004 to 4,895 at the start of 2008.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Romsey parliamentary constituency rose from 3,575 at the start of 2004 to 3,755 at the start of 2008.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

VAT: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses were registered for VAT in North West Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [242877]

Ian Pearson: The number of businesses registered for VAT in North West Cambridgeshire constituency between the start of 1997 and at the start of 2008 is shown in the following table.

North West Cambridgeshire constituency: VAT-registered business

	VAT-registered business at start of year
1997	3,005
1998	3,105
1999	3,230
2000	3,310
2001	3,355
2002	3,435
2003	3,565
2004	3,635
2005	3,695
2006	3,825
2007	3,925
2008	4,015

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007" available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in North West Cambridgeshire constituency rose from 3,005 at the start of 1997 to 4,015 at the start of 2008—a rise of 34 per cent., compared with an average rise of 24 per cent. across the whole of the UK.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

VAT: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses were registered for VAT in *(a)* Castle Point constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last five years. [243678]

Ian Pearson: The number of businesses registered for VAT in Castle Point constituency and in Essex for the past five years is shown in the following table.

VAT-registered businesses at start of year

	Castle Point constituency	*Essex*
2004	2,440	45,460
2005	2,475	46,430
2006	2,565	47,580
2007	2,605	48,485
2008	2,685	49,710

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007" available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index. htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Castle Point constituency rose from 2,440 at the start of 2004 to 2,685 at the start of 2008—a rise of 10 per cent., compared with a rise of 9 per cent. in both Essex and across the whole of the UK.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Shop Theft: Appeals of Sentence

7. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many appeals against sentences imposed in shop theft cases where the Crown Prosecution Service was the prosecuting body have been made in each of the last three years. [247662]

The Solicitor-General: While Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records include some information about cases proceeding to appeal, it is not possible separately to identify cases of theft from shops. To obtain this information, by reference to individual case files, would incur disproportionate cost (Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, part 2, clause 9).

Both the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the Ministry of Justice have confirmed that the information is not available from their departmental records.

Mortgage Fraud

8. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she is taking to prevent mortgage fraud. [247663]

The Solicitor-General: In November, the Attorney-General's new agency, the National Fraud Strategic Authority, published a national action plan to bring together the public and private sectors to tackle mortgage fraud.

Fraud: Small and Medium-sized Companies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Solicitor-General when she next expects to meet representatives of small business organisations to discuss measures to combat serious fraud schemes aimed at small and medium-sized enterprises. [247661]

The Solicitor-General: I have contact with and receive representations from small business organisations. Reducing the harm caused by fraud to individuals and businesses of all sizes is a key priority for the NFSA. The Authority will be working with private and public sector contacts to develop and deliver the National Fraud Strategy.

The development of the National Fraud Reporting Centre will be to perceive the nature of frauds as they develop. It will put together intelligence packages that it will then distribute to try to help businesses to spot the fraud before it happens, and to disrupt it in order to ensure that people are well informed of the tactics used. The SFO investigates serious and/or complex fraud against whomever it is aimed.

I recognise the particular need to do what we can to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the current economic climate.

Crown Prosecution Service

Rob Marris: To ask the Solicitor-General in respect of how many cases the Crown Prosecution Service in England and Wales *(a)* advised the police, *(b)* discontinued after charge but before trial and *(c)* proceeded to trial in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [243064]

The Solicitor-General: The following table shows at *(a)* the number of defendants in respect of whom the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) advised the police or took a pre-charge decision in each of the three years in question.

The table also shows the number of defendants prosecuted by the CPS, together with the outcome of proceedings. These cases include both those charged or summonsed by the police, and those in which a pre-charge decision to charge was made by the CPS. Case outcomes include at *(b)* the number and proportion of defendants whose case was dropped by the CPS before evidence was heard by a court, including those formally discontinued in advance of a hearing. Shown at *(c)* are the number and proportion which proceeded to a trial, together with the outcome of the trial. Finally, the table shows the number and proportion of defendants whose case resulted in a conviction (including guilty pleas as well as convictions after trial) and unsuccessful outcomes, representing all outcomes other than a conviction.

Crown Prosecution Service case outcomes data

	2005		2006		2007	
	Volume	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Percentage*	*Volume*	*Percentage*
(a) Pre-charge decisions/Advice given	556,961	—	579,081	—	564,851	—
Administrative finalisation[1]	40,654	3.5	29,264	2.7	22,269	2.1
Discharged committal	2,705	0.2	2,400	0.2	2,255	0.2
(b) Prosecutions dropped[2]	139,868	12.1	125,102	11.4	112,556	10.5
Of which:						
Discontinued	41,105	3.5	40,463	3.7	37,044	3.5
Indictment stayed	77	0.0	188	0.0	216	0.0
Lie on file	670	0.1	589	0.1	636	0.1
Offered no evidence	46,666	4.0	45,379	4.1	43,702	4.1
Prosecution stayed	96	0.0	165	0.0	198	0.0
Withdrawn	51,254	4.4	38,318	3.5	30,760	2.9
Guilty pleas	712,397	61.5	699,888	63.6	711,251	66.3
Proved in absence	169,270	14.6	155,473	14.1	140,756	13.1
(c) Trials[3]	93,508	8.1	87,737	8.0	83,230	7.8
Of which:						
Conviction after trial	64,800	5.6	58,702	5.3	55,900	5.2
Acquitted	28,708	2.5	29,035	2.6	27,330	2.5
Convictions	946,467	81.7	914,063	83.1	907,907	84.7
Unsuccessful outcomes	211,935	18.3	185,801	16.9	164,410	15.3
Total prosecutions	1,158,402	—	1,099,864	—	1,072,317	—

[1] Administrative finalisations comprise outcomes where the defendant cannot be traced, or has died, or been found unfit to plead.
[2] Prosecutions dropped are all proceedings halted before evidence is heard.
[3] Trials comprise cases where the defendant pleaded not guilty and evidence was heard by the court.

Rob Marris: To ask the Solicitor-General what the average time taken by Crown Prosecution Service lawyers in England and Wales *(a)* preparing a case for trial and *(b)* attending at trial was in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007. [243065]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service maintains no central record of the time committed by lawyers to the preparation of cases for trial or to trial attendance. The information is not recorded on individual case files.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress the Crown Prosecution Service has made in prosecuting those engaged in human trafficking. [247660]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is working to improve the number of prosecutions, and the number of offences prosecuted under human trafficking legislation is increasing year on year. The number of prosecutions should also increase further as

a result of our ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in December 2008. The Convention will assist investigations and provide support for victims of trafficking in the course of criminal proceedings.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people have been prosecuted by the Crown Prosecution Service for offences relating to the trafficking of people into the UK for sexual exploitation since 2003. [247798]

The Solicitor-General: The records held at discrete offence level by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) identify the number of offences of trafficking into the United Kingdom for sexual exploitation in which a prosecution commenced, rather than the number of defendants prosecuted. During the four years for which figures are available the number of these offences was as follows:

	Number
2005	9
2006	7
2007	30
2008	54

HEALTH

Arthritis: Drugs

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will instruct the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to take account of the effects on society and on public expenditure when evaluating treatments of rheumatoid arthritis which enable patients to continue to work or to return to work. [247296]

Dawn Primarolo: The process by which the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraises drugs and treatments is a matter for the institute. NICE undertakes a wide consultation, on a regular basis, on the methods and processes in follows in health technology appraisal. The latest guidance to its methodologies was published on 23 June 2008 and details can be found on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk

The methodology guidance NICE uses takes account of the impact of treatments on publicly-funded social care costs and, where relevant, can look at health-related benefits to carers. NICE can also conduct sensitivity analyses to expose potentially significant impacts on other areas of public spending.

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of rheumatoid arthritis patients who fulfil the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence requirements for anti-TNF treatment but who do not receive anti-TNF treatment. [247297]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no estimate of the number of people with rheumatoid arthritis meeting the National Institute for Clinical Excellence guidelines who are not receiving anti-TNF treatment.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many haemophiliacs known to have been infected with HIV through contaminated blood products administered to them under NHS treatment are still alive; and if he will make a statement. [247048]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of haemophiliacs known to still be alive after being infected with HIV through contaminated blood products administered to them under national health service treatment is 345. In addition, there is a very small number of women with bleeding disorders still alive who have acquired HIV through this route.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department is planning to respond to the forthcoming report by Lord Archer on contaminated blood and blood products and to its specific recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [247054]

Dawn Primarolo: We await Lord Archer's report with interest. We will decide whether and how the Department may need to respond when the report is available.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the National Cancer Director to publish his evaluation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence approved cancer drug usage. [247106]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, has undertaken his third analysis of usage of cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The findings were made available in chapter 4 of the first report of the Cancer Reform Strategy, "Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report", published on 1 December 2008. This document has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts responded to the survey of exceptional funding requests described in appendix 1 of the report to him by the National Cancer Director, Improving access to medicines for NHS patients, published on 4 November 2008; and, for each primary care trust, what the *(a)* number of exceptional circumstances requests made in the last 12 months was, *(b)* number of exceptional circumstances requests made for cancer treatment in the last 12 months was, *(c)* proportion of all exceptional circumstances requests made in the last 12 months which were approved was and *(d)* proportion of all exceptional circumstances requests made in the last 12 months for cancer treatments which were approved was; [245619]

(2) with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 927-28W, on NHS: drugs, which primary care trusts responded *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part to the Department of Health survey on exceptional funding procedures; and if he will place in the Library copies of all responses. [245648]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 927-28W.

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of invoice in the last three months. [247880]

Mr. Bradshaw: In accordance with directives issued by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Government Departments do not measure payment performance against the dates that appear on invoices, but rather against the date on which invoices are received at the address quoted on purchase orders or similar documents. This is also in line with the requirements of the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998.

The Department paid 93.27 per cent. of its suppliers within 10 days of the receipt of an invoice at our nominated address during the period from 1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008.

Food: Safety

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of implementing the national Scores on the Doors scheme over the next three years. [247540]

Dawn Primarolo: The national Scores on the Doors (SotD) schemes (one for England, Wales and Northern Ireland and one for Scotland) are being established by the Food Standards Agency (FSA).

The most significant costs of implementing the SotD schemes are those of the FSA. These costs are for providing support to local authorities operating the scheme, a communications strategy, and for establishing a web-based information technology platform for disseminating scores to consumers. These costs are estimated to be between £3 million and £5.7 million over the first three years.

Costs for local authorities and the food industry will depend on the number of local authorities that choose to implement the SotD schemes. For businesses covered, there will be a one-off cost for familiarisation which is estimated at £16 per business. For local authorities there will be time costs associated with the FSA-funded training that are estimated at £125 per officer trained. There will also be annual costs per authority of an estimated £3,000 for printing and issuing of certificates, and an estimated £600 for handling appeals. There may also be costs for re-inspection or re-visits for the purposes of re-scoring for which local authorities may charge, along with costs associated with any legal challenge.

It is estimated that there will be an economic saving of around £12.3 million over a three year period associated with a one per cent, decrease in food-borne illness resulting from operation of the SotD schemes.

Health Education

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made in developing further indicators of success in achieving the new ambition on healthy weight. [247110]

Dawn Primarolo: Progress on tackling obesity and overweight will be measured against data on Body Mass Index, included in the Health Survey for England and the National Child Measurement Programme.

In addition, we are identifying 'proxy indicators' to assist us in monitoring national progress against the public service agreement trajectory. These will be set out in the Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives annual report this spring.

Health Services: Disadvantaged

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made towards meeting the target to reduce health inequalities by 10 per cent. by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [246993]

Dawn Primarolo: The national health inequalities public service agreement target (PSA) aims to reduce inequalities in health by 10 per cent. by 2010, as measured by infant mortality (by socio-economic group) and life expectancy at birth (by geographical area).

Since the 1997-99 baseline the infant mortality gap has widened, and latest 2005-07 data show the infant mortality rate among the Routine and Manual group was 16 per cent. higher than in the total population. However, the gap has narrowed in recent years and if the rate observed since 2002-04 continues, the infant mortality element of target will be met.

Life expectancy in England and in the Spearhead Group (the 70 local authority areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators, and the 62 primary care trusts mapping to them, and a focus of action for this element of the target) is at record levels. If the rest of England still had the life expectancy it had in 1995-97 (the target baseline), Spearhead areas would not just have narrowed the gap by 10 per cent., they would have closed it completely. However, the increase in Spearhead areas is not as great as in non-Spearheads so the gap has not narrowed. The latest 2005-07 data show that the percentage gap in life expectancy between the Spearhead Group and the England average has increased to 4 per cent. above baseline for men and 11 per cent. above baseline for women (the target is a 10 per cent. narrowing for both).

The health inequalities target was deliberately set to be ambitious. Some progress has been made. However, we acknowledge that more remains to be done. "Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps" (June 2008), a copy has already been placed in the Library, reaffirmed our commitment to tackling inequalities, and meeting this PSA target. Our focus now is to provide tailored, intensive, support to the Spearhead areas, and areas with high infant mortality, including:

an additional £34 million in spending for inequalities programmes in 2008-09;

investing more in the National Support Team for health inequalities to reach all Spearheads by summer 2009, enhancing the National Support Team for Tobacco Control, and establishing new National Support Teams for Alcohol and Infant Mortality; and

support to local partners for planning and commissioning of services through the "Health Inequalities Intervention Tool".

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* people aged over 65, *(b)* people in other at risk groups, *(c)* health care workers and *(d)* poultry workers who received the seasonal influenza immunisation in each of the last five winters. [245639]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccination data are in the following table.

Percentage

	People aged 65 and over	*People in clinical at-risk groups*	*Health care workers*	*Poultry workers*
2007-08	74	45	13.4	14.2
2006-07	74	42	14	13.4
2005-06	75	48	19.4	[1]—
2004-05	71	40	15.4	[1]—
2003-04	71	[1]—	14.8	[1]—

[1] Those years when data was not collected or policy was not in place.

England has one of the best uptake rates of the flu jab in Europe for those aged 65 and over.

This year the Department has reminded health professionals of the importance of protecting younger patients in other risk groups and we will look carefully at the results when final vaccine uptake data for 2008-09 is available.

In 2008 research was carried out with adults in at-risk groups. It identified that there are a number of challenges to improving vaccine uptake in younger at-risk groups and that because the use of the term 'flu' and 'cold' had become almost interchangeable, flu was not regarded as a serious concern.

The Department is planning to introduce a new flu vaccination advertising campaign for the 2009-10 flu season. One of the aims of the new advertising approach is to improve targeting of the message to people aged under 65 with long-term conditions, while maintaining uptake rates among those aged 65 and over. These research findings are being fed into the development of the new campaign.

Uptake among health care workers is low in most developed countries and this is a concern that is not specific to the UK. To address low uptake in health care workers, the Department held a flu conference in June 2008 for flu leads working in PCTs and also in occupational health. The conference focused on sharing ideas for improving vaccine uptake among health professionals.

We also launched a new flu vaccine leaflet for health care workers and are currently working on a communications strategy that will provide support to occupational health departments in delivering all occupational health vaccinations, because immunising health care workers with the flu vaccine is the responsibility of the employer.

The poultry workers programme has a slightly different focus to the other seasonal flu programmes. Its purpose is to reduce the risk of a poultry worker being exposed to an avian flu virus at the same time as they were infected with seasonal flu virus. It is theoretically possible that the two viruses could mix to produce a new strain of flu virus which could possibly lead to a pandemic. This programme is primarily aimed at reducing the risk of a pandemic virus emerging in this country.

Local Area Agreements

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in meeting the targets set by local area agreements to which Ministers in his Department have subscribed; and if he will make a statement. [245739]

Phil Hope: 150 local area agreements (LAAs) covering priorities in every locality in England from 2008-09 to 2010-11 were agreed in June 2008. It is too early to make an assessment of progress against targets in the LAAs but Government offices for the regions will take stock of emerging findings early in 2009. From April 2009, the comprehensive area assessment (CAA) will bring together assessments of performance across each local area and these may apply to anything done by local authorities acting alone or in partnership. It will place particular emphasis on delivery against identified LAA priorities for the local area. The first findings under CAA are likely to be reported in autumn 2009. Data which is used to measure the performance of different places with respect to key Government targets will be available at:

http://www.fti.communities.gov.uk/fti/Welcome.aspx

Individual targets were monitored by Government offices for the regions and strategic health authorities but no comprehensive assessment was made against the health targets in the previous rounds of LAAs in place since 2005-06. To do an assessment of the thousands of health-related targets in these LAAs would involve a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Medical Treatment (Prevention of Euthanasia) Bill 1999-2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what files his Department holds on the Medical Treatment (Prevention of Euthanasia) Bill of Session 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [247749]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department holds one file in respect of the Medical Treatment (Prevention of Euthanasia) Bill of the 1999-2000 session. The file is entitled "Withdrawing and Withholding Medical Treatment; Medical Treatment (Prevention of Euthanasia) Bill" and extends to four volumes.

Mental Health Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in the development of a public mental health framework for creating well-being; and if he will make a statement. [240719]

Phil Hope: We expect to publish a public mental health framework early in 2009. The framework is intended to provide health care commissioners, providers and a wider cross-governmental audience with evidence-based advice on promoting good mental health and well-being.

Mental Health Services: Young People

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government's undertaking that by November 2008 no child under the age of 16 years would be treated on an adult psychiatric ward has been met. [245752]

Ann Keen: The latest available figures, for July to September 2008, show children and young people under 16 spent only four bed days on adult psychiatric wards, the lowest level since collection started in 2005. This supercedes the figure given in reply to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 528W, when I regret as a result of data error, five bed days were originally reported for this quarter.

Figures for October to December 2008 will not be available until February 2009.

MMR Vaccine

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to increase the effectiveness of the MMR vaccination catch-up programme. [247013]

Dawn Primarolo: Since we launched the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination catch-up programme in August 2008, we have provided extra funding to primary care trusts (PCTs), sourced additional supplies of vaccine and provided extra technical support to general practitioners to help them identify children who have not received the MMR vaccine.

We also held a meeting of PCT immunisation co-ordinators to emphasise the importance of reducing measles cases through improving vaccination uptake.

A public relations campaign is planned to be implemented and rolled out shortly. Key messages will include how serious and infectious measles is and how it is never too late to have the MMR vaccine. A measles leaflet is already available which can be viewed and downloaded from:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk/Vaccines/MMR/Resources/MMR_catchup_programme

A copy of the leaflet has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Public Participation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will undertake an investigation of the public interest implications of local authorities withholding money for administrative purposes from LINKs budgets. [247680]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to do so.

In line with wider Government policy to encourage greater local accountability, funding to support the establishment and operation of local involvement networks (LINks) has been given to local authorities as part of the annual area based grant. Local authorities with social services responsibilities are under a duty (set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007) to make arrangements for the activities of LINks to be carried on in their area. It is for each local authority to decide how to use the allocated funding to fulfil this duty.

Personal Health Budgets

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding streams he plans to include in the personal health budgets due to be piloted from 2009; and if he will make a statement. [247735]

Mr. Bradshaw: The focus of the pilots will be the use of national health service funds.

Where appropriate, we hope personal health budgets will align with personal budgets for those eligible for social care so that the budget appears as seamless as possible to the individual using health and social care services, and to support a holistic approach to the planning of care and support. One of the goals of piloting personal health budgets is to understand how this could work and we hope local authorities and primary care trusts will work closely together on this issue.

The Government will shortly be launching the personal health budget programme formally, seeking expressions of interest in the pilots and local proposals for how personal budgets could work.

Shingles

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the cost to the NHS of treating shingles and post herpetic neuralgia in people over 50 years of age in the most recent period for which figures are available. [247535]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is currently in the process of estimating the cost of treating shingles and post herpetic neuralgia (PHN) within the wider context of the benefits of shingles vaccination, including whether a vaccination programme would be cost effective. It will provide advice in due course.

Sunscreens: VAT

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Treasury on the effects on the level of use of sun protection products for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults of the rate of value added tax charged on such products; [247083]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to *(a)* parents in respect of their children and *(b)* adults on the use of sun protection lotions; and if he will make a statement. [247084]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government keep taxes under review and introduce reduced VAT rates only where they offer the best targeted and most cost-effective support for its objectives. The Government also work in partnership with Cancer Research UK, which runs SunSmart, the national skin cancer prevention and sun protection campaign, on behalf of the UK Health Departments. The campaign aims to raise awareness and provide information on the risks to health related to ultraviolet radiation exposure.

To enjoy the sun safely, the SunSmart code recommends:

S pend time in the shade between 11 and 3;

M ake sure you never burn;

A im to cover up with a hat, t-shirt and sunglasses;

R emember to take extra care with children; and

T hen use factor 15+ sunscreen or higher.

Further information about sunscreen advice is available on the Cancer Research UK website at:

http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/healthyliving/sunsmart/staysafe/sunscreen/

Tobacco: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on making the purchase of cigarettes under age a criminal offence; and if he will make a statement. [248645]

Dawn Primarolo: We published a report on the "Consultation on the future of tobacco control" on 9 December last year. A copy has already been placed in the Library. This summarised responses, and noted that some respondents suggested there should be new offences for those underage who try to buy tobacco, or who smoke in public.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the two major projects on child maintenance debt referred to by the Comptroller and Auditor General in July 2008 have now been completed; what their main findings were; and if he will place in the Library copies of each project. [241560]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty;

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether the two major projects on child maintenance debt referred to by the Comptroller and Auditor General in July 2008 have now been completed; what their main findings were; and if he will place in the Library copies of each project. [241560]

In response to the annual audit of its client funds accounts the Child Support Agency commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to lead two reviews of how the Agency reported child maintenance debt in its Annual Report and Accounts. The first review concerned the accuracy of the reported debt balance and the associated receipts and payments. The second review concerned the collectability of the child maintenance debt balance as reported in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which is now responsible for the Child Support Agency has yet to receive the final reports. The Commission expects to be in a position to make the outcome of these reports available in the first quarter of the New Year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Habitual Residence Test

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British citizens did not pass the habitual residency test in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [241561]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* In the 12 months to the end of November 2008, 2,948 habitual residence tests were failed by British nationals.

Note:
Data based on clerical inputs and therefore subject to input error.
Source:
DWP Management information.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* fixed-term and *(b)* casual temporary staff Jobcentre Plus employs. [245451]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) fixed term temporary staff and (b) casual temporary staff Jobcentre Plus employs. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As at November 2008 Jobcentre Plus employed 1443 full time equivalent fixed term staff and 1336 full time equivalent casual temporary staff. The Office of National Statistics criteria define those staff on a fixed term contract of less than 12 months as temporary and those on a contract over 12 months as permanent. Therefore, of the 1443 fixed term appointments, 1108 are defined as temporary and 335 as permanent.

Jobcentre Plus: Overtime

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much Job Centre Plus has spent on staff overtime payments *(a)* in each of the last three financial years and *(b)* in 2008-09 to date. [245455]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how much Jobcentre Plus has spent on staff overtime payments in each of the last three financial years and in 2008-09 to date. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The details of expenditure on staff overtime payments for the requested years are set out below:

Period	*Amount (£ million)*
2005-06	26.4
2006-07	32.9
2007-08	31.6
2008-09	21.8

Note:
2008-09 covers period from 1 April 2008 to 30 November 2008
Source:
DWP financial system

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions where each call centre used to answer telephone calls from members of the public to Jobcentre Plus helplines is located; and if he will make a statement. [245447]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking where each call centre used to answer telephone calls from members of the public to Jobcentre Plus helplines is located; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has 31 Contact Centres which are used to answer telephone calls from members of the public. They are at the following locations:

Annesley
Bangor
Blackburn
Bootle
Bridgend
Caerphilly
Clydebank
Coventry
Derby
Dundee
Exeter
Garston
Grimsby Crown House
Grimsby Europark
Halifax
Lincoln
Liverpool
Lowestoft
Marton Mere
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Paisley
Pembroke Dock
Poole
Preston
Sheffield
Southend
Taunton
Telford Newtown House
Telford Plaza
Torquay.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what performance targets have been set to measure the quality of service given to members of the public calling Jobcentre Plus helplines; and if he will make a statement. [245448]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what performance targets have been set to measure the quality of service given to members of the public calling Jobcentre Plus helplines; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Contact Centres are measured against a range of internal performance indicators which support and underpin the Jobcentre Plus targets. All Contact Centre Customer Service Agents have key work objectives which are put in place to support, contribute and feed into the achievement of the following six national Jobcentre Plus targets:

Job Outcome Target—This is the measure of our success in helping people in to work. It is based on an automated reporting system, which reports movements into work and off benefit by matching Jobcentre Plus and HMRC data.

Customer Service Target—This measures Jobcentre Plus' performance in meeting the standards and commitments set out in the organisation's customer and employer charters.

Monetary Value of Fraud and Error—Contact Centre Directorate has a direct impact on this target by taking appropriate action when fraud is suspected during interaction with the customer and more specifically through the referrals that are generated from calls to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline.

Average Actual Clearance Times—This is measured through the processing of claims within specified average actual clearance times, for Incapacity Benefit, Income Support and Jobseeker's Allowance—18 days, 11 days and 12 days respectively.

Employer Engagement Target—This is measured by "mystery shopper" calls made by an independent organisation and is a measure for professionalism and information provided over the phone.

Interventions Delivery Target—This is a measure of the efficiency of Jobcentre Plus in booking customers in for work-focused interviews within set timescales to provide effective employment support and advice.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the policy of Jobcentre Plus is on the use of recorded messages on helplines used by members of the public. [245453]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking, what the policy of Jobcentre Plus is on the use of recorded messages on helplines used by members of the public. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has standard messages on all its 0845 and 0800 numbers that conform to recognised business telecom practices. This ensures that messages are coherent and that there is consistency in greeting—which includes information to customers concerning call costs and why calls are monitored and recorded, whilst taking into account customers with accessibility and diversity needs. Messages are kept as short as possible, while ensuring customers are directed to the most suitable source of help for their needs.

Jobcentre Plus: Temporary Employment

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to Jobcentre Plus of employing *(a)* fixed term temporary staff and *(b)* casual staff was (i) in each of the last three financial years and (ii) in 2008-09 to date. [245454]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive, Mel Groves. I have asked him to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning the cost to Jobcentre Plus of employing fixed term staff and casual staff in each of the last three financial years and in 2008-09 to date. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Details of fixed term temporary staff are not separately identifiable in the accounts. However, I am able to provide details of expenditure on employing casual/temporary staff for the requested years as follows:

Period	*£ million*
2005-06	45.8
2006-07	26.4
2007-08	19.8
2008-09	16.9

Note:
2008-09 covers period from 1 April 2008 to 30 November 2008
Source:
DWP financial system

Jobseeker's Allowance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England claimed jobseeker's allowance in each year since it was introduced. [247593]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in North Yorkshire and England

As at November each year	*England*	*North Yorkshire*
1996	1,528,620	11,990
1997	1,120,390	8,865
1998	1,030,330	8,070
1999	924,785	7,220
2000	800,200	6,105
2001	740,795	5,650
2002	730,620	5,030
2003	715,290	4,955
2004	651,320	4,240
2005	722,685	4,780
2006	771,165	5,350
2007	657,270	4,690
2008	878,045	6,430

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. Jobseeker's allowance replaced unemployment benefit and income support for unemployed people on 7 October 1996.
4. Figures exclude clerical cases.
Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of jobseeker's allowance have had that allowance withdrawn following a failure to meet the conditions attached to receipt of the allowance in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by category. [243685]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Number of individuals with jobseeker's allowance (JSA) sanctions/disallowances in Great Britain

	2007					*2008*						
	Aug	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*
Total	23,100	19,910	22,750	23,260	14,710	23,500	24,730	21,320	25,430	25,910	27,920	31,380
Varied sanctions —discharge from HM forces	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varied sanctions—leaving employment voluntarily	3,740	3,300	3,920	3,710	2,820	4,100	3,680	3,400	3,770	3,890	3,760	3,820
Varied sanctions—lost employment through misconduct	890	730	720	800	580	970	1,060	880	1,010	1,040	950	940
Varied sanctions—NTA of an opportunity of employment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Varied sanctions—refusal of employment	730	700	850	1,050	820	1,060	990	860	1,080	1,070	1,190	1,360
Fixed Sanction—giving up place on training scheme/ emp prog	240	190	220	190	150	200	220	170	210	210	240	280
Fixed Sanction—losing place on place on training scheme/emp prog due to misconduct	600	510	610	560	420	600	660	650	800	790	970	1,100
Fixed Sanction—refusal of place on training scheme/ emp prog	10	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	40
Fixed Sanction—NTA of place on training scheme/ emp prog	30	20	20	20	20	30	20	20	30	30	30	20
Fixed Sanction—FTA place on training scheme/emp prog	1,760	1,430	1,470	1,530	1,130	1,560	1,690	1,450	1,710	1,690	1,950	2,250
Fixed Sanction—Refusal to carry out a JS direction	270	210	280	230	180	200	220	210	210	240	270	320
Entitlement—Actively seeking employment	2,970	2,640	3,380	3,690	1,890	3,860	3,700	3,160	3,460	3,230	3,780	4,440
Entitlement—Availability questions	540	540	530	490	310	400	440	330	430	440	560	690

Number of individuals with jobseeker's allowance (JSA) sanctions/disallowances in Great Britain

	2007					2008						
	Aug	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*
Entitlement—FTA Advisory interview/Failure to produce signed declaration	11,390	9,620	10,690	10,930	6,330	11,490	12,000	10,140	12,690	13,230	14,180	16,080
Entitlement—JSAg questions	20	20	30	30	30	10	30	30	20	30	20	30
Entitlement—Trade disputes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Entitlement—Joint Claim exemption	10	—	10	10	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	10

Definitions:
NTA—Neglected to avail themselves
FTA—Failed to attend
JSAg—Jobseeker's agreement
Notes:
1. Individuals and decisions based figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. The most recent adverse sanction is shown for each individual.
3. Figures include all individuals who have had all or just part of their JSA payments sanctioned or withdrawn.
4. Varied length sanctions are sanctions of between one week and 26 weeks imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct. The actual period in each case is at the discretion of the Adjudication Officer who makes the decision.
5. Fixed length sanctions are sanctions of two weeks (four weeks if repeated within 12 months, and 26 weeks if already received a four week sanction within last 12 months) imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's direction. Payment of benefit continues in full pending the Adjudication Officer's decision on a sanction question.
6. Entitlement sanctions apply to questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work. In most cases payment of JSA will be suspended by benefit processing until the doubt is resolved.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Jobseeker's Allowance Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's projections of the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants are for each month of the next three years; and if he will make a statement; [244140]

(2) what his Department's latest projections are for *(a)* unemployment and *(b)* claimant count in each month in each of the next three years, (i) in total and (ii) broken down by the lowest possible geographical area for which projections are available. [246630]

Mr. McNulty: The Government do not publish forecasts of unemployment, on either an ILO or jobseeker's allowance claimant count basis, but the jobseeker's allowance expenditure forecast is based on the planning assumption published by HM Treasury in the pre-Budget report.

Notes:

1. The figures quoted in the pre-Budget report are seasonally adjusted UK Claimant unemployment. This is a cautious assumption based on the average of external forecasts and is not the Treasury's economic forecast.

2. The pre-Budget report 2008 assumption can also be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf

(p188. Table B1).

3. The planning assumption is used for budgetary planning at a national level, and is not disaggregated into sub-national areas.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions *(a)* how much was spent on working-age recipients of jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support in each of the last 10 years. [246722]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested can be found in the annual Department for Work and Pensions Departmental Reports since 2004, copies of which are available in the Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed jobseeker's allowance claims there were in each of the last six months, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; what the average claim processing time was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [246903]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many unprocessed Jobseeker's Allowance claims there were in each of the last six months, broken down by region and Jobcentre Plus district and what the average claim processing time was in each case. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus calculates the number of unprocessed Jobseeker's Allowance claims on a monthly basis by carrying out a count across the benefit processing system on the last working day of the month. On any given day a small number of claims will be in transit between offices, so the count will slightly understate the total number of unprocessed claims.

The target for Jobseeker's Allowance Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) is 11.5 days. This is calculated from the customer's initial date of contact to the date a decision is made on their claim. Our benefit processing system calculates the AACT by taking each claim's clearance time using the dates as described and calculates an average across the volume of claims processed.

A copy of the latest available information has been placed in the Library. Data is available to Benefit Delivery Centre level and I have also given a national figure. This data has not been available by Jobcentre Plus district level since April 2006.

Personal Injury: Compensation

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) on how many occasions the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) took action *(a)* against insurance companies who failed to report settlement of personal injury claims to the CRU and *(b)* to recover benefits from insurance companies in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; [243062]

(2) in how many personal injury cases the Compensation Recovery Unit (CRU) identified that insurance companies had failed to report settlement of a claim to the CRU in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [243063]

(3) what steps the Compensation Recovery Unit has taken to ensure that insurance companies report promptly all personal injury claims which are settled *(a)* out of court, *(b)* in court by negotiation and *(c)* by judgment. [243066]

Kitty Ussher: The Compensation Recovery Unit have not identified any cases where insurance companies failed to report settlement of a claim. The Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 110, gives DWP inspectors the right to examine the records of compensators and employers to verify that they are complying fully with the provisions of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997. We work closely with the Association of British Insurers and other insurance associations and we scrutinise claims. There has been nothing to date to indicate enforcement action is required on compliance, although we continue to monitor the position.

Post Office Card Account: Contracts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the cost to his Department of reimbursing participants in the Post Office Card Account tendering process for their reasonable bid costs. [248004]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 105W.

Poverty: Cancer

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on the number of cancer patients in poverty; and if he will make a statement. [245069]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Our poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, do not allow for a breakdown by illness type. Information is therefore not available for the number of cancer patients living in low income.

Poverty: Children

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of disabled children living below the poverty line in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [241195]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is shown in the following table.

Figures for Scotland and Wales are not available due to sample size volatility, while data for the United Kingdom are only available from 2002-03. Figures for Great Britain are available for earlier years and have been provided.

Number (million) of disabled children living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income (Before housing costs)

	England	*GB*	*UK*
1997-98	0.2	0.3	n/a
1998-99	0.2	0.2	n/a
1999-2000	0.2	0.2	n/a
2000-01	0.1	0.2	n/a
2001-02	0.1	0.2	n/a
2002-03	0.1	0.2	0.2
2003-04	0.1	0.2	0.2
2004-05	0.1	0.2	0.2
2005-06	0.1	0.1	0.2
2006-07	0.1	0.2	0.2

n/a = Not available.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on households below average income data which is sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for households below average income figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. Median incomes are used as the national average in the publication.
5. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Figures have been presented on a before housing costs basis. For before housing costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for *after* housing costs they are.
7. Numbers of disabled children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.
8. The disability definition up to 2001-02 defines disability as having a long-term illness, disability or infirmity that limits the activity of the individual in some way. This definition changed from 2002-03 to be more in line with the Disability Discrimination Act's definition of disability which defines disability as having a long-term illness, disability or infirmity that leads to a significant difficulty with one or more areas of the individual's life. The change in the definition has only a very minor impact on the statistics.

Source:

Households Below Average Income.

Redundancy: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice, support and assistance he is providing to people in Essex who are facing redundancy. [243668]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what advice, support and assistance he is providing to people in Essex who are facing redundancy. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We offer a wide range of support for people facing redundancy. This includes helping support employers to retain their staff through retraining; and encouraging staff to gain vocational qualifications to prepare for the economic recovery rather than having to make staff redundant. We work with partners such as Business Link (who have reduced many of their fees for Small and Medium Enterprises) and directing employers to Train to Gain for a business check-up and funding for training.

We also offer advice on how employees can claim benefits and support employers where they need to go into short time or temporary stop working and we are tailoring our advice to meet the their needs. We will also visit employees facing redundancy at their place of work to explain the support and benefits available to them. Employees can also access the vacancies we hold nationally by visiting our website at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or by telephoning us on 0845 6060 234 and by using the jobpoints at their local Jobcentre.

A strengthened Rapid Response Service was launched on 12 November, doubling national funding from £3 million to £6 million. The service is being promoted through relevant press and online. The pre-Budget report announcerd a further doubling of Rapid Response Service funding—£12 million will be available in 2009-10.

Through the Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus has access to funds to enable those individuals made redundant to receive the necessary help to get them back into work. Such measures could include:

Skills Transfer Analysis (to help identify an individual's transferable skills and training needs relevant to the local labour market);

Job-Focused Training (to assist individuals with appropriate training and certification linked to employment or self-employment linked to the needs of the local labour market).

We work with partners such as Response to Redundancy who have access to funding via the East of England Development Agency to assist employees with re-training and CV writing. We can also arrange for a Business Link representative to advise staff on self-employment.

We have recently decided that our customers in Essex can have access to CV writing, Jobsearch advice and support through our Programme Centres immediately rather than waiting six months. We have also produced a leaflet for employers and partner organisations such as Business Link and local authority Economic Development Officers to ensure they are aware of the support we can provide.

In November we contacted 13 businesses to offer our assistance and support following notification of possible redundancies. Eleven accepted our assistance while two had already made provision for their staff to be redeployed within their own companies. Our staff visited and talked to five of these businesses and we sent copies of our Job Kits to the remaining six companies. Our Job Kit provides practical help and advice to employees when applying for jobs. We also issue employees with a leaflet that describes how to claim benefits, find work and re-train.

I have asked Neil Brettell, the District Manager for Essex, to meet with you to discuss the range of provision available in the Essex area.

Redundancy: Woolworths

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department plans to provide to the Woolworth's workforce; and if he will take steps to ensure that Woolworth's observes its statutory obligations with regard to its workforce. [244452]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assistance his Department plans to provide to the Woolworths workforce; and if he will take steps to ensure that Woolworths observes its statutory obligations with regard to its workforce. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

When Woolworths went into administration Jobcentre Plus made contact immediately with the administrators and Woolworths management to prepare the Rapid Response Service support for any redundancies.

The key components of the Rapid Response Service are Skills Transfer Analysis, Job-Focused Training and the Action Fund. Jobcentre Plus will embark upon a Skills Transfer Analysis with former Woolworths employees to identify those with transferable skills and training needs relevant to their own local labour market. Where necessary, Job-Focused Training will be put in place for those requiring training or certification. Finally, should an individual have a personal barrier preventing them from taking up employment or training the Action Fund will be used to overcome that.

Jobcentre Plus has also ensured that each and every Woolworths employee will receive appropriate literature within their personal redundancy pack. This literature will provide advice on navigating the benefits system and introduce the various Jobcentre Plus services that will enable them to find alternative employment.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of processing *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support was in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [244541]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what the cost of processing (a) Jobseeker's Allowance and (b) Income Support benefits was in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information on the staff costs of processing new claims for each benefit is provided in the table below.

		£ million
	2007-08	2006-07
Jobseekers Allowance new claims	45.6	44.5
Income Support new claims	46.5	42.5

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management systems.

Social Security Benefits: Administration

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been allocated to cover the costs of processing applications for each benefit that the Department administers in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [246628]

Kitty Usher: The Department's published three year plan is available in the Library and sets out the planned expenditure of Jobcentre Plus and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service over the CSR2007. The Pre-Budget Report announced additional funding for the Department over the CSR2007 to continue delivering effective support for the unemployed to find a job. The Department will publish a revised plan before the end of the current financial year providing further details of its plans, which will include planned Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service expenditure.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department is of processing a benefit application for each benefit that his Department administers; and if he will make a statement. [246629]

Kitty Ussher: Information on the staff costs of processing a new claim for each benefit in 2007-8 is provided in the following tables:

	£
Income Support Claims only	52.91
Jobseekers Allowance Claims only	21.00
Incapacity Benefit Claims only	43.84
Bereavement Benefit Claims Only	101.70
Maternity Allowance Claims Only	26.09
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit Claims Only (Claims only include Telephony element)	60.22

Source:
Jobcentre Plus ABM systems

	£
Attendance Allowance Claims	38.12
Disability Allowance Claims	87.46
Carers Allowance Claims	33.45
State Pension Claims	49.03
Pension Credit Claims	123.42

Source:
Pensions, Disability and Carers Service ABM systems.

Social Security Benefits: Databases

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether benefit payment systems are able to record total benefits received by *(a)* individuals and *(b)* households. [246684]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a number of systems which are used in the administration of the various benefits for which it is responsible. Where appropriate, officials can establish which benefits are paid to an individual or their dependants and at what rate. However, information is not recorded by household.

Additionally, housing benefit and council tax benefit are administered by over 400 local authorities, each of which is responsible for its own systems. Arrangements are in place that allow officials to establish the amount of local authority administered benefits in payment to an individual where there is a legitimate reason to do so.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the amount lost by his Department as a result of *(a)* benefit fraud and *(b)* administrative error in Torbay constituency in each of the last five years. [244539]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available in the format requested.

DWP Fraud and Error estimates, published in the Fraud and Error in the Benefit System series, provide fraud and error estimates at a national level. The estimates are derived from the examination of a sample of benefit payments. The sample sizes are too small to produce valid estimates below the national level. Estimates are therefore not available at constituency level.

Social Security Benefits: Interviews

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-focused interviews for each category of benefit he estimates will be conducted in each of the next five years. [244201]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 420W, on social security benefits: overseas residence, how many of the 1,700 requests for payment of *(a)* the core component of disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carer's allowance from those who had previously lived in the UK and are now living in another EEA state or Switzerland have been granted. [245824]

Jonathan Shaw: As explained in my written answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 420W, we are still considering the implications of the European Court's decision on paying disability living allowance, attendance allowance and carer's allowance to people who claim from another EEA state or Switzerland. We will publish the entitlement criteria on the Directgov website as soon as the details have been finalised. As a result, we are not yet in a position to make decisions on individual awards for these customers.

Social Services: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which funding streams he plans to include in the individual budget pilots due to be tested in trailblazer public authorities from 2010; and if he will make a statement. [247734]

Jonathan Shaw: The Welfare Reform Bill introduced on 14 January 2009 sets out the framework for a new legislative right for disabled people. The Bill enables the Secretary of State to make regulations to give disabled people greater choice and control over support provided by the state. This will be referred to as the right to control.

The right to control will be tested in a small number of trailblazing public authorities in England from 2010.

We will consult on how Department of Work and Pensions funding, particularly Access to Work, the Independent Living Fund and elements of our specialist disability employment programmes, could be included in the trailblazers. The inclusion or alignment of further Government services, including the Disabled Facilities Grant and Adult Social Care, will be considered during this phase.

We will also consult locally and nationally ahead of the trailblazers to investigate which other sources of support could be included. The services and funding streams to be included in the pilots will be set out in secondary legislation.

Unemployment: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of all benefit claimants have been out of work for more than 10 years in *(a)* each of the principal seaside towns of England and Wales and *(b)* each lower layer super output area (LSOA) of the seaside towns of England and Wales, giving each LSOA area. [244296]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Unemployment: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are unemployed in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; and what estimate his Department has made of projected trends in these levels in each of the next 12 months. [244932]

Mr. McNulty: In November 2008 there were 61,815 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the north-east Government office region and 2,185 in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

2. Data are published at:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Source:

100 per cent. counts of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, JobCentre Plus Computer Systems.

While we do not predict future levels of unemployment, we are planning for the impact of higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months. Clearly this is a sensible approach given the expected trends during a time of slower economic growth.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* establishments have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to under-age people in (i) Stockport Metropolitan borough, (ii) Greater Manchester and (iii) the North West in each of the last five years. [246070]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons and other defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons in the Greater Manchester police force area and the North West region, from 2003 to 2007, the latest available, are given in table 1. The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued to persons for this offence are given in table 2 from 2004, when the scheme commenced, to 2007.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data collected centrally are available at police force area level only; therefore data for Stockport Metropolitan borough cannot be supplied.

Table 1: The number of persons and the number of other defendants[1] proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to selling alcohol to under age persons[2] in the Greater Manchester Police Force Area and the North West Region[3], 2003-07[4,5,6]

	Greater Manchester Police force Area		North West Region	
	Proceeded against		Proceeded against	
	Persons	Other	Persons	Other
2003	125	4	205	6
2004	179	1	241	1
2005	117	—	238	—
2006	159	1	232	1
2007	35	—	97	—

1 Figures for Other includes: Public bodies, companies, organisations
2 Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Holder of occasional permission or his agent knowingly selling to; knowingly allow consumption by or allowing any person to sell, intoxicating liquor to a person under 18. Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises.
Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 4(1). Licensing Act 1964 Sec 169(1).
Sale of alcohol to a person under 18
Licensing Act 2003 S.146(1)
Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
Licensing Act 1964 Sec 181A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 Sec 17.
Allow sale of alcohol to an individual under 18.
Licensing Act 2003 Sec 147(1) & (5)
3 Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.
4 These data are on the principal offence basis.
5 Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces.
As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
6 The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PND) issued to persons for "sale of alcohol to persons under 18" in the Greater Manchester Police Force Area and the North West Region[1], 2004[2] to 2007[3].

	Greater Manchester Police Force Area	North West Region
2004	—	32
2005	127	462
2006	211	615
2007	141	572

[1] Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.
[2] Commencement of the PND scheme.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the e-borders programme to be fully operational. [247158]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The e-Borders programme is being rolled out in phases.

By December 2010, the e-Borders system will be receiving and processing at least 95 per cent. of passenger and crew movements in advance of travel into the UK. The system will be fully operational, processing 100 per cent. of passenger and crew movements, by March 2014.

Crime: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* vehicle theft, *(b)* domestic burglary and *(c)* violent crime there were in each police force area in Wales in each of the last 17 years, broken down by sub-category of crime. [244186]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and data is given in the tables for 1998-99 to 2007-08. A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to suggestions in the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics and we now provide figures for violence against the person.

In 1998-99, the recorded crime coverage was extended and substantial revisions were made to the counting rules. Figures prior to that date are therefore not directly comparable and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1: Selected offences recorded by the police in Wales, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

Year and police force area	*Theft of a vehicle*	*Aggravated vehicle taking*	*Theft from a vehicle*	*Interfering with a motor vehicle*	*Total offences against vehicles*	*Burglary in a dwelling*	*Aggravated burglary in a dwelling*	*Total burglary in a dwelling*	*Most serious violence*	*Other violence*	*Total violence against the person*
1998-99											
Dyfed-Powys	854	129	1,497	91	2,571	965	8	973	120	4,560	4,680
Gwent	3,457	144	6,145	419	10,165	3,347	30	3,377	275	11,080	11,355
North Wales	1,934	182	5,138	340	7,594	2,431	18	2,449	112	4,591	4,703
South Wales	17,955	616	18,110	121	36,802	9,170	69	9,239	739	10,622	11,361
1999-2000											
Dyfed-Powys	759	109	1,335	261	2,464	686	10	696	109	5,410	5,519
Gwent	3,250	143	5,714	501	9,608	3,127	21	3,148	286	13,488	13,774
North Wales	2,175	135	5,191	375	7,876	2,201	18	2,219	118	5,621	5,739
South Wales	15,246	604	17,203	1,317	34,370	8,315	68	8,383	891	11,999	12,890
2000-01											
Dyfed-Powys	584	88	897	147	1,716	550	11	561	64	4,130	4194
Gwent	2,934	140	5,033	484	8,591	2,557	16	2,573	294	13,896	14190
North Wales	1,734	152	5,278	603	7,767	2,118	17	2,135	97	5,222	5319
South Wales	11,491	575	14,249	963	27,278	6,626	59	6,685	824	12,411	13235
2001-02											
Dyfed-Powys	735	106	1,209	165	2,215	713	1	714	98	5,418	5516
Gwent	2,474	136	4,406	674	7,690	2,540	20	2,560	291	8,893	9184
North Wales	1,769	180	5,712	646	8,307	2,387	20	2,407	139	7,210	7349
South Wales	10,918	639	14,324	996	26,877	6,789	56	6,845	912	13,496	14408

Note:
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Selected offences recorded by the police in Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Year and police force area	*Theft of a vehicle*	*Aggravated vehicle taking*	*Theft from a vehicle*	*Interfering with a motor vehicle*	*Total offences against vehicles*	*Burglary in a dwelling*	*Aggravated burglary in a dwelling*	*Total burglary in a dwelling*	*Most serious violence*	*Other violence*	*Total violence against the person*
2002-03											
Dyfed-Powys	720	113	1,195	209	2,237	660	6	666	101	6,116	6,217
Gwent	2,878	168	5,286	1,212	9,544	2,981	20	3,001	406	14,613	15,019
North Wales	1,885	202	6,006	974	9,067	3,201	26	3,227	177	11,295	11,472
South Wales	11,150	694	18,579	3,279	33,702	8,019	41	8,060	1,157	19,269	20,426
2003-04											
Dyfed-Powys	676	119	1,530	179	2,504	934	10	944	76	7,833	7,909
Gwent	3,336	171	5,416	1,520	10,443	3,178	21	3,199	348	12,583	12,931
North Wales	1,848	190	5,575	900	8,513	2,450	34	2,484	146	10,833	10,979
South Wales	9,212	581	17,289	4,001	31,083	7,220	55	7,275	1,122	20,073	21,195
2004-05											
Dyfed-Powys	620	107	1,604	132	2,463	1,036	6	1,042	90	8,225	8,315
Gwent	3,013	176	5,394	1,483	10,066	2,565	18	2,583	396	12,496	12,892
North Wales	1,521	219	3,609	830	6,179	1,559	26	1,585	197	11,824	12,021
South Wales	6,838	498	15,456	3,187	25,979	6,431	46	6,477	1,079	19,028	20,107
2005-06											
Dyfed-Powys	506	113	1,250	148	2,017	797	4	801	134	7,577	7,711
Gwent	2,511	183	5,656	1,233	9,583	2,157	20	2,177	452	11,051	11,503
North Wales	1,359	127	2,671	471	4,628	1,271	14	1,285	220	12,110	12,330
South Wales	6,339	557	16,538	3,156	26,590	5,699	48	5,747	932	20,116	21,048
2006-07											
Dyfed-Powys	493	95	1,417	188	2,193	765	5	770	118	7,576	7,694
Gwent	2,433	200	4,972	932	8,537	2,196	20	2,216	423	11,294	11,717
North Wales	1,454	153	2,697	767	5,071	1,188	12	1,200	173	14,250	14,423
South Wales	5,991	493	16,221	2,923	25,628	6,362	30	6,392	865	18,968	19,833
2007-08											
Dyfed-Powys	472	133	1,350	138	2,093	747	4	751	103	5,853	5,956
Gwent	1,924	170	4,317	649	7,060	2,380	14	2,394	369	9,829	10,198
North Wales	998	136	2,150	380	3,664	1,150	25	1,175	153	10,955	11,108
South Wales	5,411	400	14,226	2,037	22,074	6,953	25	6,978	917	21,197	22,114

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Criminal Records Bureau

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessments she has made of the efficiency of the process of completing a Criminal Records Bureau check in the last five years; [243610]

(2) what the average waiting time for a Criminal Records Bureau check to be completed is; [243611]

(3) what change there has been in the average waiting time for a Criminal Records Bureau check to be completed was *(a)* in the last 12 months and *(b)* in the last five years; [243612]

(4) what percentage of those who apply for Criminal Records Bureau clearance waited for more than *(a)* 28 days and *(b)* two months over the average time taken to process a check in the last 12 months. [243613]

Meg Hillier: The Home Office sets the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) a number of performance targets each year and the efficiency of the process of completing a CRB check is measured within the context of these targets.

The CRB currently operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

The following table illustrates the CRB's performance for the last five years against the published service standards (PSS) target.

Published service standards

	Standard		*Enhanced*	
	Target (percentage)	*Actual (percentage)*	*Target (percentage)*	*Actual (percentage)*
2007-08	90 in 10 days	99.7	90 in 28 days	93.6
2006-07	90 in 10 days	98.8	90 in 28 days	84.9
2005-06	93 in 14 days	99.6	90 in 28 days	84.4
2004-05	93 in 14 days	97.6	90 in 28 days	89.9
2003-04	93 in 14 days	93	90 in 28 days	92.5

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disclosure are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB.

Average figures do not give an accurate indication of performance, since the times taken to complete checks may be affected by a number of factors, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information and the operational effectiveness of the Disclosure Units of the police forces involved in the enhanced disclosure process.

Drinking Banning Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce drinking banning orders. [246714]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government intend to commence the legislation relating to Drinking Banning Orders (DBOs) on application. Officials will shortly begin this process by consulting the judiciary on the draft guidance for this power, and we expect that DBOs would become available to frontline practitioners from summer 2009.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* successful prosecutions, *(b)* cautions and *(c)* issues of fixed penalty notices there were for use of a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [244799]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Available information provided by the Ministry of Justice for the number of findings of guilt, at all courts, for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, for 2006 and 2007, are given in the following table.

Data on court proceedings for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Additionally, there were 6,651 fixed penalty notices issued for the offence in 2006. Data on FPNs issued in 2007 are due to be published in early 2009.

Total number of findings of guilt at all courts for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, England and Wales, 2006 and 2007[1, 2]

	Number
2006	267,673
2007	232,811

[1] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what protocol is used by the police for dealing with people who are identified as having been trafficked. [241133]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have in place existing collaborative ways of identifying, referring and supporting victims whereby the police can seek advice from the specialist United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre in the identification of victims. Forces are also advised as to the appropriate support services available for those who are identified as victims.

On 17 December 2008 we ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. By April 2009 at the latest we will introduce a reflection period of 45 days and a renewable one year residence permit for identified victims of human trafficking. Additionally, we are introducing formal identification measures under a National Referral Mechanism by which victims are systematically identified by a Competent Authority and referred to appropriate support.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has commissioned on the links between migration and human trafficking. [244772]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The links between migration and human trafficking form a central part of the work undertaken by the Serious Organised Crime Agency as part of its work to produce the annual UK Threat Assessment. This work is underpinned through two SOCA programmes of activity that focus on organised immigration crime.

Within this framework SOCA works closely with both international and domestic partners including the UK Human Trafficking Centre.

Human Trafficking: Moldova

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to improve co-operation between the UK and Moldova to prevent trafficking of human beings. [243705]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* I shall be meeting the Moldovan ambassador to discuss issues around organised immigration crime including human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Victims

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will hold discussions with her counterparts in other EU member states to seek to establish systems to provide safety, support and advice for trafficking victims discovered in the UK and returned to other EU member states. [243824]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are in regular dialogue with international partners and we have played an active role in the G6 initiative to assist in enhancing international co-operation, increase knowledge of human trafficking and develop victim care capabilities.

This work has built on the EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings (EU action plan on trafficking) which was introduced under our presidency of the European Union and will be further taken forward under the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings which we ratified on 17 December 2008.

Metropolitan Police Estates Strategy

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Metropolitan Police Estates Strategy will be published. [247124]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Police National Computer: Standards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the replication rate is of records on the Police National Computer and the National DNA Database, broken down by records relating to people aged *(a)* under 10 years, *(b)* 10 to 17 years and *(c)* 18 years and older; and if she will make a statement. [246638]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Approximately 13.3 per cent. of records on the National DNA Database are estimated to be duplicates or replicates. It is not possible to break this figure down by age.

On 16 December 2008, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for the Home Department, announced that the Government would take immediate steps to remove the DNA profiles of children aged under 10 from the NDNAD.

The replication rate of records on the Police National Computer is not known. When a replicate record is discovered, the records are combined to make a single definitive record.

Police Stations: Closures

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police stations in London are earmarked for closure as part of the draft Metropolitan Police Estates Strategy; in which year it is proposed that they be closed; what estimate has been made of the capital receipts that will be obtained from their closure; what new police stations are proposed as part of the draft strategy; and in which year it is proposed that they be opened. [247123]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the Metropolitan police estate and allocation of resources are matters for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Firearms

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police firearms from each police force have been lost or stolen in each year since 1997. [247493]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Urban Areas

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on policing urban areas on Friday and Saturday nights in each of the last five years. [247689]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the police authority and chief constable for each force concerned to determine in the light of operational priorities.

Police: Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which weapons are available for use by police forces; and how many of each type are available to each force. [247696]

Mr. Coaker: Weapons deployed by forces are an operational matter for chief officers. The Home Office Scientific Development Branch maintains a database, on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), of firearms and ammunition used by authorised firearms officers in the 43 forces in England and Wales. The Attenuated Energy projectile is also available for use by police forces, and Tasers are available for use by authorised firearms officers and specially trained units in line with ACPO Policy and Guidance. Forces also deploy incapacitant spray—both CS and PAVA based—and batons.

Proceeds of Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the information on the performance of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency's (SOCA's) asset recovery functions she plans to publish will include assets recovered by another agency principally as a result of SOCA activity or information supplied by SOCA. [246715]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In addition to publishing information on its own asset recovery operations the Serious Organised Crime Agency will report on "international assets denied". This figure will reflect the wider impact of SOCA's activity and relates to assets which overseas authorities have frozen, seized or confiscated from criminals as a result of SOCA intelligence or activity.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Assets Recovery Agency had under investigation with a view to civil recovery or taxation action in which no action to restrain assets had yet been taken as at 31 March 2008; what the estimated value of the assets under investigation in those cases was; how many of those investigations were subsequently terminated by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency without court action; what the reasons for the termination were in those cases; what the estimated value of assets in terminated cases was; and in respect of such terminated cases, what steps have been taken to remove relevant assets from criminals. [243622]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data relating to the transfer of cases from the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious Organised Crime Agency were not collated to this level of detail, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files). SOCA has terminated 10 cases since the merger, in which no Property Freezing Order/Interim Receiving Order or Recovery Order had been granted as at 31 March 2008. The reasons for terminating these cases were:

no assets to recover (1)

insufficient evidence to link assets to criminality (5)

further evidence of criminality found—case referred for criminal investigation (3)

case erroneously referred—criminal case still under appeal (1).

In these cases either there were no assets to recover, or insufficient evidence, or an ongoing criminal investigation which rendered any assets outside the scope of the civil recovery powers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases the Assets Recovery Agency transferred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 31 March 2008 in which proceedings for civil recovery on taxation investigation had been initiated; what the estimated value of assets restrained in those cases was; how many of those cases were terminated by SOCA without asset recovery; what the reasons were for termination in each such case; what the estimated value of assets in cases so terminated was; how many such inherited cases not terminated have been completed by obtaining a civil recovery order or consentor; in how many such cases *(a)* a tax settlement been agreed and *(b)* a judgment from Special Commissioners has been obtained; what the value of such orders and settlements is; and what the value of assets restrained in such cases is. [243791]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data relating to the transfer of cases from the Assets Recovery Agency to the Serious Organised Crime Agency were not collated to this level of detail, as there would be no operational value and some cost in doing so. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost (through manual collation from case files). SOCA has terminated one case without recovering assets, where civil recovery proceedings had been initiated as at 31 March 2008. The reason for terminating the case was that there were no assets left to recover. As regards the value of civil recovery orders and tax settlements, figures for SOCA's UK-wide performance on asset recovery for the financial year 2008-09 are subject to internal validation and will be included in its Annual Report for 2008-09, when published.

Terrorism: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government takes to prevent gambling internet sites being used by terrorist organisations to raise funds. [247160]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The Government are determined to do all they can to prevent funds from reaching terrorists. Operators located in Great Britain who wish to offer gambling through internet websites must apply for a Remote Operating Licence from the Gambling Commission. The Gambling Commission undertakes a strict examination of an operator's suitability before determining their application.

Furthermore, operators licensed by the Gambling Commission who offer casino games through websites form part of the regulated sector covered by the Money Laundering Regulations 2007. These regulations implement the terms of the Third EU Directive on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, and include a duty to verify the identity of customers. A breach could constitute a criminal offence.

The Gambling Commission is the supervisory authority for casinos and operators must act in accordance with the Gambling Commission's guidance on anti-money laundering, The Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism—Guidance for remote and non-remote casinos'. This guidance is available at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Client/media detail.asp?mediaid=326

and a copy will be placed in the House Library. The operators of all gambling websites should ensure their staff are made aware of their duties under the Terrorism Act 2000 for the reporting of suspicious activity relating to terrorist finance offences.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to reply to the letter of 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference P1120638 and CTS of M 20970/8. [248178]

Mr. Woolas: The regional director for the north-west, Gill Mortlock, wrote to my hon. Friend on 13 January 2009.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 19 January 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much has been spent by the Church Commissioners on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248725]

Sir Stuart Bell: In each of the last three years for which fully audited figures are available (i.e. 2005-07) the salary and pension contribution cost of staff for whom the Church Commissioners were the managing employer was £3.7 million.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how much has been spent by 10 Downing Street on advertising in the last 12 months. [243718]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 869-70W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Office were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246657]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 744W.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Internet

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what date the decision was taken to upload videos of parts of the tour of Parliament to a YouTube channel; on what date the decision was taken to restrict access to that channel to members of a private YouTube group; and if he will make a statement. [249395]

Nick Harvey: Videos of parts of the parliamentary tour were posted on the parliamentary YouTube channel:

http://uk.youtube.com/ukparliament

linked from the main UK Parliament website:

http://www.parliament.uk

on 6 January as part of our ongoing development of the website. They were removed from it on 9 January when some issues with their content were identified.

The YouTube videos were published to the UK Parliament channel as part of specific groups of videos focused on the tours. The functionality of YouTube does not allow these groups to be deleted. To remove them from public view required making the groups private, thereby restricting access.

It is not our policy to restrict access in any way to our content, including YouTube, and this was done in order to prevent inaccurate content from being in the public domain.

They will be reinstated once they meet the required quality standards. As a result of this incident we have reviewed quality control procedures and built in additional checks before material is signed off for release on the website.

SCOTLAND

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247372]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office, along with the Wales Office and Ministry of Justice, has funded a series of reports on devolution from University College, London. The Scotland Office agreed to contribute £25,000 over three years towards this work.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248066]

Ann McKechin: Under the terms of its building leases the Scotland Office is required to maintain its buildings to an acceptable standard of decoration and repair. Over the period of the last five years, the Office has shared its accommodation with a number of other Government Departments. The following figures show the gross total for repairs and maintenance of Scotland Office buildings, but does not include the contribution by the Departments towards their share of the costs.

The Office does not separately record the amount spent on wallpaper. The plans for further decoration have not yet been finalised, however any costs will be in line with the terms of the building leases.

	Cost (£)
2003-04	179,853
2004-05	374,129
2005-06	331,803
2006-07	355,071
2007-08	[1]1,011,254

[1]In 2007-08 this included roof and exterior repairs to Dover House in London.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department provides for staff. [249082]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no in-house canteen or other catering facilities.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248256]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland office was established on 1 July 1999. Since this date no members of staff have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers or mobile phones belonging to the office.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on broadband internet in each of the last five years. [245496]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record expenditure on broadband internet.

Departmental Coaching: Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248074]

Ann McKechin: No Ministers or civil servants received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many members of staff were *(a)* employed by and *(b)* seconded to the Scotland Office in (i) Scotland and (ii) London in each quarter since 1999. [248510]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office does not directly employ staff, all staff in the office are on secondment from other Government Departments, mainly the Scottish Executive and Ministry of Justice. Information on staff numbers is published in the office's annual report, copies of which are in the House Library. The office does not keep central records in a form that would allow staff numbers to be broken down by each quarter since 1999.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the responsibilities of each member of his media and communications team are; when each member of staff was recruited; and what the salary of each member of staff is. [248514]

Ann McKechin: The responsibilities of the Press Office at the Scotland Office are shared by two staff, recruited in September 2006 and March 2007. Both are on secondment from the Ministry of Justice.

The Press Office is responsible for a wide range of civil service communications functions.

To protect the privacy of individual staff, data relating to fewer than five people are not disclosed.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248418]

Ann McKechin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 763-64W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248705]

Ann McKechin: Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive (SE) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) who each have bonus schemes in operation. Under the special bonus scheme of the SE and the reward and recognition scheme of the MOJ, the office may directly authorise bonus payments (or in the case of the MOJ scheme; small and instantaneous awards e.g. vouchers) for recognising special effort, achievement and commitment. The following table shows the number and cost of non-pensionable bonuses paid under these schemes:

Financial year	Total number of bonuses	Total cost of bonuses (£)
2005-06	8	3,750
2006-07	17	4,750
2007-08	6	2,150

Departmental Catering

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in

(a) 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249861]

Ann McKechin: Members of the senior civil service in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice, their bonuses are assessed under a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The office does not hold central information on such bonuses.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers in each of those years. [248792]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not record the information in the form requested.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247919]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office Press Office have not incurred any costs on public surveys in any of the last three years.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [245296]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office paid the following amounts to recruitment agencies for temporary staff in the last five years:

	Number of staff	*Total cost (£)*
2003-04		
Adecco	3	11,952.41
Pertemps	12	18,721.46
Select Appointments	1	22,961.65
2004-05		
Select Appointments	1	7,098.31
2005-06		
Select Appointments	[1]0	458.62
2006-07		
Kelly Services	2	7,500.12
2007-08		
Pertemps	3	7,239.74

[1] No staff were recruited in this year, however the cost of a late invoice from the previous financial year was incurred.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals were declared bankrupt in each year between 2000 and 2007. [247597]

Mr. McFadden: Table 1 shows the number of bankruptcies in England and Wales between 2000 and 2007. This information is also available on the internet at:

http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm

Table 1: England and Wales

	Number
2000	21,550
2001	23,477
2002	24,292
2003	28,021
2004	35,898
2005	47,291
2006	62,956
2007	64,480

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246658]

Mr. McFadden: A list of expert advisers used by BERR since 1997 is not held centrally and any information on such advisers could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2003, the Government have published, on an annual basis, the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band. This is published in the form of a written ministerial statement by the Prime Minister before each summer recess.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House to respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 16 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Whilst we have engaged a number of consultants on various programmes and projects during this period, we have not engaged any third party 'expert advice' to help form organisational strategy or policies.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 16 January 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to your question (2008/448) what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case.

A list of expert advisers used by The Insolvency Service since 1997 is not held centrally and any information on such advisers could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [244724]

Mr. McFadden: BERR does not hold sufficiently detailed information to answer this question and to produce it would involve disproportionate cost.

Small Businesses: Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his latest assessment is of the implementation of the Government's commitment to pay suppliers within 10 days. [247881]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* BERR is currently collecting data from other Government Departments and from its own delivery partners on performance in making payments to suppliers within 10 days of receiving a correctly rendered invoice. Although complete figures are not yet available, Government Departments and public bodies have embraced payment within 10 days and are working to implement this across their own organisation and to encourage suppliers to pass on these terms.

During November and December 2008, the first two months of recording the new target, BERR paid 93.1 per cent. and 96.9 per cent. of invoices within 10 working days respectively. Formal reporting by all Government Departments commenced at the start of January 2009 and will be reported to BERR on a quarterly basis.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247340]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its formation on 3 October 2008, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has made no use of 0844, 0845 or revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public. DECC already makes use of a 03-prefixed number, charged at the standard national rate, for general inquiries. The Department is not at present party to any contracts, as the Transfer of Function Order related to the creation of DECC has not yet come into force.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was generated from each primary source in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [248438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent year for which figures are available is 2007. The following table shows generation from the main sources in 2007. Provisional figures for 2008 will not be available until the end of March 2009.

	Electricity generated (GWh)
Gas	164,473
Coal	136,685
Oil	4,693
Other Thermal[1]	13,030
Primary electricity	73,402
Of which:	
Nuclear	63,028
Hydro, wind, wave and solar PV	10,374
Other fuels[2]	3,859
Total	396,142

[1] Includes non-biodegradable wastes, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas, and waste products from chemical processes.
[2] Hydro pumped storage.
Note:
Primary electricity is electricity obtained other than from fossil fuel sources e.g. nuclear, natural flow hydro and non-thermal renewables.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Table 5.6, as revised at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/dukes5_6.xls

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of electricity generated in the UK was produced by *(a)* renewables, *(b)* coal, *(c)* gas and *(d)* nuclear energy in 2008. [248540]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Energy statistics for the calendar year 2008 will not be available until the end of March 2009. These will be provisional until the publication of the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics, 2009 at the end of July 2009. The latest available annual data are for 2007 and are as follows:

	Percentage
Renewables	5.0
Coal	34.5
Gas	41.5
Nuclear	15.9
Other fuels[1]	3.1
Total	100.0

[1] Includes non-biodegradable wastes, oil, coke oven gas, blast furnace gas, and pumped storage.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Table 5.6 as revised at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/dukes5_6.xls

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of levels of fuel poverty in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* each county; and if he will make a statement. [245064]

Joan Ruddock: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003, and shows that in Chorley there were 2,600 fuel poor households and around 31,000 fuel poor households in Lancashire. Clearly, rising prices will have increased those figures significantly.

Fuel poverty estimates are available for all counties can be seen in the following table:

County	*Fuel poor households*	*Proportion of all households that are fuel poor (percentage)*
Avon	24,800	6.0
Bedfordshire	13,100	5.8
Berkshire	16,800	5.3
Buckinghamshire	15,000	5.5
Cambridgeshire	17,300	6.0
Cheshire	25,100	6.2
Cleveland	15,000	6.7
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	14,400	6.7
Cumbria	14,300	6.8
Derbyshire	26,200	6.5
Devon	29,200	6.4
Dorset	17,500	5.9
Durham	16,700	6.7
East Sussex	19,200	5.8
Essex	39,100	5.8
Gloucestershire	14,600	6.1
Greater London	162,200	5.4
Greater Manchester	68,200	6.6
Hampshire	38,700	5.8
Hereford and Worcester	5,000	6.7
Hertfordshire	22,200	5.3
Humberside	24,700	6.8
Isle of Wight	3,800	6.7
Kent	39,200	6.1
Lancashire	39,300	6.7
Leicestershire	23,500	6.4
Lincolnshire	18,300	6.7
Merseyside	40,500	7.1
Norfolk	22,200	6.5
North Yorkshire	19,900	6.3
Northamptonshire	16,000	6.2
Northumberland	8,500	6.5
Nottinghamshire	28,000	6.5
Oxfordshire	13,300	5.5
Shropshire	11,900	6.6
Somerset	13,300	6.3
South Yorkshire	34,900	6.6
Staffordshire	27,800	6.4
Suffolk	18,000	6.4
Surrey	22,900	5.3
Tyne and Wear	30,300	6.5
Warwickshire	12,700	6.0
West Midlands	68,100	6.6
West Sussex	17,500	5.5
West Yorkshire	56,500	6.6
Wiltshire	15,000	6.0
Worcestershire	13,500	6.1

Housing: Insulation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the *(a)* energy savings and *(b)* emissions reductions which would arise if (i) 60 per cent., (ii) 80 per cent. and (iii) 100 per cent. of UK households were thermally insulated. [242464]

Joan Ruddock: As of April 2008, the remaining potential for insulation measures in Great Britain totalled 7.75 million wall cavities; 6.33 million lofts (where less than 100 mm of insulation is already present); and 6.3 million homes in need of solid wall insulation (excluding homes in conservation areas).

We project that, if all remaining measures were installed (with solid-wall insulation achieving a 'U' value of 0.45 W/m2K), this would save 20.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) per year. In terms of energy savings (comprising gas, electricity and oil), this would represent 230.89 TWh per year.

The savings delivered from treating 80 per cent. and 60 per cent. of homes would depend on the combination of measures installed. The following table therefore provides the figures for savings from insulating cavities, lofts and solid walls separately for each of these percentage scenarios.

	Cavities	*Lofts from < 100 mm*	*Solid wall insulation*
Remaining potential in GB, April 2008 (Million)	7.75	6.33	[1]6.30
Potential carbon savings if 100 per cent. filled ($MtCO_2$/year)	4.9	1.5	14.2
Potential carbon savings if 80 per cent. filled ($MtCO_2$/year)	3.9	1.2	11.4
Potential carbon savings if 60 per cent. filled ($MtCO_2$/year)	2.9	0.9	8.5
Potential gas savings if 100 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	20.02	5.99	57.53
Potential gas savings if 80 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	16.0	4.8	46.0
Potential gas savings if 60 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	12.0	3.6	34.5
Potential electricity savings if 100 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	1.41	0.41	4.36

	Cavities	Lofts from < 100 mm	Solid wall insulation
Potential electricity savings if 80 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	1.1	0.3	3.5
Potential electricity savings if 60 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	0.8	0.2	2.6
Potential oil savings if 100 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	1.58	0.47	4.52
Potential oil savings if 80 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	1.3	0.4	3.6
Potential oil savings if 60 per cent. filled (TWh/year)	0.9	0.3	2.7

[1] Excludes houses in conservation areas.

Hydroelectric Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has commissioned on the use of small-scale hydro-power generation; and what his most recent assessment is of its potential contribution to power generation by 2020. [248770]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 2008 "Growth Potential for Microgeneration in England, Wales and Scotland" report completed by Element Energy was part funded by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and included research as to the number of micro-hydro installations currently in operation. Their follow up report, "Numbers of microgeneration units installed in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland", looked in more detail at the number of installations across the UK and estimated that there were 73 micro hydro installations in the UK generating over 4GWh per annum. Both reports are available from the BERR website at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/microgeneration/research.

In Scotland a study has been undertaken by the Forum for Renewable Energy in Scotland (FREDS), looking at the potential for hydropower in Scotland. This study shows this potential to be in the region of 657MW. The FREDS report can be found on the Scottish Executive website at:

http://www.Scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/917/0064958.pdf

This Department, along with the Welsh Assembly Government and in partnership with the British Hydropower Association are currently undertaking a study into the potential for micro and small scale deployment hydropower in England and Wales. This is due to be published later this year.

Natural Gas

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what alternative gas supplies to those previously obtained from Russia are being considered by the Government. [248374]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK imports less than 2 per cent. of its gas from Russia. UK gas demand is met from a diverse range of sources including indigenous UK continental shelf production, imports from Norway and from continental Europe including from the Netherlands and LNG imports. In addition, the UK has gas storage. The market can respond to changes in the availability of imports from particular sources, including gas sourced from Russia, to ensure that overall demand is met.

Nuclear Power: France

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions have taken place with the government of France on UK-French co-operation on nuclear power following the President of France's visit to the UK in 2008. [248542]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Discussions on nuclear co-operation have continued to take place since the President's visit to the UK: a meeting will take place between officials across a range of issues on 3 February 2009; the exchange programme between the safety regulators continues; and the safety regulators have been in regular contact with relation to Generic Design Assessment.

Nuclear Power: Insurance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 12 January, *Official Report*, column 124W, on nuclear power: insurance, for what reasons the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has located its wholly-owned subsidiary, Rutherford Indemnity Ltd, in Guernsey. [249359]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) did not make a decision to locate Rutherford Indemnity Ltd. in Guernsey. It was located there when it was owned by BNFL before it was transferred to the NDA, when the NDA became the owners of the plant and facilities of BNFL with effect from 1 April 2005.

Sellafield: Management

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of management at the Sellafield nuclear facility before the transfer of responsibility for the site to Nuclear Management Partners. [247140]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is responsible for the management of sites in its ownership.

The new Parent Body Organisation for Sellafield Ltd., Nuclear Management Partners Ltd., was awarded the contract after a competitive procurement process.

The outgoing Parent Body Organisation, BNFL, did not tender for the contract. However, the effectiveness of the previous management arrangements, including cost and efficiency, was used by the NDA as a benchmark to assess value for money in the tenders received during the competition.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the value is of contracts relating to the handover of responsibility for the Sellafield site to a new private body organisation. [247141]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Under the terms of the Parent Body Agreement signed with the NDA, Nuclear Management Partners (NMP) and Sellafield Ltd., NMP was appointed as the Parent Body Organisation and owner of the shareholding in Sellafield Ltd, on 24 November 2008. The Parent Body Agreement, which has no direct monetary value, is for an initial term of five years. The agreement contains extension options for two further five-year terms and one two-year term, totalling a potential 17 years, which the NDA is entitled to exercise in any order. During this contract period, NMP are entitled to receive dividends based on the fee earned by the Site Licence Company (SLC), Sellafield Ltd. This fee is dependent on the quality and effectiveness of the SLC's performance. The fee is currently anticipated to be worth around £50 million a year.

Severn Barrage: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the costs to the public purse of building the Severn Barrage in the event of all funding being provided from that source. [248168]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Severn tidal power feasibility study has produced cost estimates of a number of different tidal power projects in the Severn Estuary, and considered how these could be funded and delivered. We expect this work to be published shortly as part of a three-month public consultation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Protection: Day Care

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what environmental protection legislation governs daycare centres which offer educational training for people with learning disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [246321]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The types of centres described are subject to the same environmental protection legislation that applies to businesses generally. The activities carried out by a business will determine which legislation applies in particular to the business and its activities.

Examples of legislation which could particularly affect these types of centres are the waste management legislation set out in Part 2 of the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007. A further example is the statutory nuisance legislation set out in Part 3 of the Environmental Protection Act which addresses any activities prejudicial to health or a nuisance: for example, emissions of smoke, fumes, light and noise. A full list of the environmental protection legislation that applies to businesses can be found on the Environment Agency's NetRegs website:

www.netregs.gov.uk

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce an independently verified kitemark for the flood resilience of properties. [247488]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We have no plans to set up an alternative Quality Mark scheme to that run by the British Standards Institute. In principle, we have no objection to the development of alternative Quality Marks, supported by appropriate independent verification, provided that they deliver good quality products appropriate to the intended use and are easily understood by the public.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on his Draft River Basin Management Plans consultation. [247490]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The consultation on draft River Basin Management Plans is being conducted by the Environment Agency which is the Competent Authority and has responsibility for producing the plans under the Water Framework Directive regulations. The consultation which started on 22 December 2008 will close on 22 June 2009.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the financial impact on each *(a)* individual water company, *(b)* farmer and landowner, *(c)* local authority, *(d)* highway authority and *(e)* other interested party affected by the proposals in the Draft River Basin Management Plans consultation if brought into effect; and if he will make a statement. [247491]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An updated national impact assessment for the water framework directive was published in February 2008 and is available at:

www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/river-basin/IA-river-basin-v2.pdf.

Each of the draft River Basin Management Plans is accompanied by a draft impact assessment which includes an analysis which estimates the likely impact of different options on different sectors. All the major sectors are included that are expected to be impacted by the water framework directive measures, such as the water sector and agriculture and land management. It also includes an assessment of the impact on small and medium sized businesses within each River Basin District.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what economic impact assessment he has made of each individual river management system set out in the Draft River Basin Management Plans consultation if brought into effect; and if he will make a statement. [247492]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each of the draft River Basin Management Plans impact assessments includes a sector analysis which estimates the likely impact of different options on different groups. An analysis by individual river management system has not been undertaken but could be achieved by aggregating measures for each water body in each river catchment. It is not possible to undertake this work at this level of detail at present as many water bodies still require further work to determine the reasons for not achieving good status.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on flood protection policy. [248590]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA officials and I work closely with the Environment Agency and meet regularly to discuss a range of issues, including flood protection policy. Most recently, I met Paul Leinster (chief executive) and Lord Smith (chairman) for a bilateral on 11 December.

Flood Control: Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Minister will be responsible for joint action between the Environment Agency and the Meteorological Office on flood warning and prediction matters; and if he will make a statement. [248522]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC), announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 17 December 2008, will have no impact on existing ministerial responsibilities. The FFC is staffed by experts from the Environment Agency and the Meteorological Office and will ensure better integration of weather and flood warnings and related information.

Forestry Commission: Scotland

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Executive on *(a)* the (i) statutory duties and (ii) functions of the Forestry Commission and *(b)* proposals in the draft Climate Change (Scotland) Bill which relate to the Forestry Commission. [248741]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Officials in both DEFRA and the Forestry Commission England are in regular contact on a wide range of issues relating to forestry matters. This includes keeping in touch in general terms with relevant developments such as those relating to the Forestry Commission in Scotland. No detailed discussions have however taken place on the Scottish Climate Change Bill.

Manchester Is My Planet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has provided to Manchester is my Planet in the last 24 months. [245892]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and so would incur disproportionate cost.

Marine and Fisheries Agency: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of potential *(a)* job losses, *(b)* voluntary redundancy payments and *(c)* involuntary redundancy payments at the Marine and Fisheries Agency following its replacement by the Marine Management Organisation. [247912]

Huw Irranca-Davies: An estimate of potential job losses, voluntary and involuntary redundancy payments at the MFA is not necessary, as staff not wishing to relocate with the MMO will be supported in finding employment elsewhere or reassigned within DEFRA.

Marine Management Organisation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of setting up the planned Marine Management Organisation headquarters in each of the short-listed locations. [247909]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My officials have identified the potential funding required for a relocation, which will be taken into account when 2009-10 budget allocations within DEFRA are agreed.

The one-off funding required for the relocation will be very similar for any of the short listed locations—although ongoing costs such as accommodation will vary between locations.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce the decision on the location of the headquarters for the Marine Management Organisation. [247910]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I will announce the decision shortly.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria will be used in deciding the location of the headquarters for the Marine Management Organisation; and what weight will be given to the desirability of a coastal location. [247911]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The business criteria, which all have the same maximum weighting, used in arriving at the short list for the location for the MMO HQ were as follows:

Coastal Location;

Location in terms of wider Government agendas on Relocation (Lyons and Economic Deprivation);

Proximity to Marine Stakeholder Clusters;

Proximity to Institutions with Marine Specialisms; and

Good transport links in particular to key stakeholders and Brussels

The Quality of Life criteria include education, cost of housing, unemployment, health care and crime and these also shared the same maximum weighting for this criteria.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers he proposes the Marine Management Organisation should have in relation to the authorisation of *(a)* coastal barrages and *(b)* other large capital projects which will affect the marine environment. [248185]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) will have the powers necessary to authorise most developments in the relevant marine

areas, including coastal barrages, but with some exceptions, such as 'nationally significant infrastructure projects' as defined under part 3 of the Planning Act 2008.

Nationally significant infrastructure projects will be handled by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) established under the Planning Act. As the centre of marine expertise, the MMO will advise the IPC on proposals for nationally significant infrastructure projects and other developments which may affect the marine environment.

The MMO will have a particular role in advising the IPC on conditions that should be imposed to mitigate any adverse impact any development may have on the marine environment or other uses of the sea. The MMO will also be responsible for the subsequent monitoring and enforcement of developments approved by the IPC.

Nature Conservation: British Antarctic Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made under the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels to help reduce the numbers of seabird deaths caused by longline fishing in the British Antarctic Territory; and whether the treaty covers other British Overseas Territories in the region. [247707]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The waters around the British Antarctic Territory are wholly within the area covered by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). It is mandatory for all long-line fishing vessels to undertake measures to minimise seabird by-catch and to deploy an international scientific observer to monitor compliance with these requirements. In recent years, there has been no by-catch of seabirds in legal fisheries in these waters. There has thus been no need for the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) to work to reduce by-catch in these waters and it has instead focused its efforts on by-catch reduction in other parts of the oceans. In those areas the Parties to the Agreement have begun to work with regional fisheries management organisations to advance the use of mitigation technologies as well as to improve by-catch monitoring and have agreed a strategy to take this forward.

The UK's ratification of ACAP includes all UK Overseas Territories in the range of the albatrosses and petrels covered by ACAP, for example, the Falkland Islands, Tristan da Cuhna, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and British Antarctic Territory.

Pigs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support his Department is providing to pig farmers and the pig industry in 2008-09; and what account he took of minimum UK welfare standards in determining that support. [247560]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have been very supportive of a number of initiatives taken by the pig industry itself to address the challenging issues that have faced it during 2008-09. For example we are continuing to develop the public food sector procurement initiative and are currently producing a model specification to enable public bodies to take account of animal welfare in their contracts for pork and bacon products.

The Department is also pursuing, with all parties including supermarkets, how best to provide better origin information so that consumers can make more informed choices, without imposing additional legislation on the industry.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the long-term economic sustainability of the pig industry; and if he will make a statement. [247563]

Jane Kennedy: Industry organisations such as the British Pig Executive (BPEX) and the National Pig Association (NPA) have kept me fully appraised of the current state and future economic prospects of the English pig industry. At their invitation I have "walked the pigmeat supply chain" to gain a fuller understanding of its economic and environmental sustainability.

DEFRA also routinely monitors the profitability of UK pig production on an annual basis through our 'Agriculture in the UK' publication.

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee published their report on 'The English Pig Industry' on 13 January. We welcome the report and we shall be making a full response to its recommendations in due course.

Plastic Bags

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to enable local authorities to require local retailers to reduce significantly their use of single-use carrier bags; and whether he plans to enable local authorities to prohibit the use of single-use carrier bags in *(a)* their areas and *(b)* specific circumstances. [248338]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have no such plans. It would be illegal under EU law to prohibit the use of bags, and the Government have no plans to do so or to empower local authorities to do so. A very significant reduction in the number of single-use carriers distributed by supermarkets is in prospect following the agreement reached between the Government and the British Retail Consortium in December, under which leading supermarkets have pledged to reduce bags by 50 per cent. by the spring.

Recycle Now Campaign

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost per compost bin of the sales promotion under the Recycle Now Campaign was in each of the last two years. [245823]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has run a home composting programme since 2004. During this period it has sold nearly two million home composting bins through partner local authorities. WRAP has also provided advice and

support to those householders who have adopted home composting as an effective means of reducing their waste.

For the last two complete calendar years, the cost per compost bin spent on direct sales literature and local advertising was £3.13 in 2006, and £3.02 in 2007.

Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what means his Department advises other Government departments on rural proofing. [248187]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is established Government policy that the needs and interests of rural people, businesses and communities should be appropriately reflected in all Departments' mainstream policies and delivery plans. Rural proofing is one of the main tools available to departments to achieve this. DEFRA works with other Government Departments to advise and encourage them to take account of rural interests in developing and implementing their policies, including meeting the requirement to address rural implications in published impact assessments.

DEFRA also sponsors the Commission for Rural Communities which publishes detailed rural proofing guidance, and works closely with Departments on the rural implications of their policies. DEFRA and the Commission for Rural Communities are currently working together to refresh and relaunch the support arrangements and materials available to national, regional and local government to improve rural proofing.

Rural Areas: Community Development

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for further review of the effects of the policies set out in the Rural White Paper on rural communities. [248208]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Rural White Paper 2000 set out a vision of a living, working, vibrant and protected countryside in which people had fair and equitable access to the jobs and services they require. That vision is underpinned by the Rural Strategy 2004, and continues to be reflected in the Government's mainstream policies as they affect rural areas. The Government established the Commission for Rural Communities in 2005 to monitor and advise on the impact of its policies on rural areas, and currently has no plans to carry out any separate review.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Commission for Rural Communities to measure (i) community involvement and (ii) community activity in rural areas. [248210]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to supporting community involvement and activity in all areas, including rural ones, and is seeking to promote this through the initiatives announced in the Community Empowerment White Paper. DEFRA does not measure levels of community engagement, but the Department for Communities and Local Government has a range of mechanisms for this.

In addition, the Commission for Rural Communities has undertaken a number of activities in relation to community engagement, including a participation inquiry which looked at the role of local councillors as democratic champions acting on behalf of their communities.

Rural Community Buildings Network

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward proposals to assist the rural community buildings network; and what funding is being made available to the networks. [248152]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA supported the formation of the Rural Community Buildings Network which was set up in July 2006 to improve communication on matters that affect rural community buildings, share information and best practice, and provide a unified voice to influence local and central government.

DEFRA does not fund this network, and has no plans to bring forward new proposals for it. However, DEFRA will continue to organise and host its regular meetings, and work with the group to promote the benefits of community buildings in rural areas.

Sustainable Development: Housing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure developers and contractors in the housebuilding industry consider the whole-life costs in the production process of housing; and whether he plans to introduce producer responsibility requirements for *(a)* construction industry and *(b)* housebuilding industry products. [244110]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has no plans to introduce new regulatory requirements with respect to whole-life costs in the production process of housing. However, the higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes contain standards that encourage developers voluntarily to use materials with lower environmental impacts over their lifecycle. DEFRA has also worked with BSI and the Carbon Trust to develop a method (the PAS 2050) for any business to assess the lifecycle carbon emissions of a product or service. This was published on 29 October 2008.

Fly-posting

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of legislation governing fly-posting. [247550]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA funds Keep Britain Tidy to undertake the annual Local Environmental Quality Survey of England which assesses a variety of local environmental quality indicators, including fly-posting. The survey shows that fly-posting levels over the last four years have been low and judged as "good".

Since the introduction of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, local authorities have had the power to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for fly-posting offences. The number of FPNs issued has increased from 883 with a payment rate of 59 per cent. in 2005-06 to 1,133 with a payment rate of 78 per cent. in 2006-07.

Waste Disposal: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Gloucestershire County Council to provide its full business case for its waste strategy. [248209]

Jane Kennedy: Gloucestershire county council submitted their outline business case to DEFRA at the end of April 2008 and private finance initiative (PFI) credit support for their project was provisionally approved by the Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock), in August 2008. The project was considered by the cross-departmental Project Review Group (PRG) at its meeting on 21 October 2008 and provisionally approved subject to certain conditions. DEFRA made an announcement on this PFI application on 12 November 2008.

It is standard practice for PFI projects to submit final business cases to the sponsor Department, before the appointment of preferred bidder. In this case, this is expected to be in late 2010.

Water Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has had seeking an exemption for churches, charities and community groups from surface area water charges; and if he will make a statement. [247769]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has received a range of representations from various groups regarding surface water drainage charges. The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and is looking at what can be done.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hon. Members have written to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Ofwat to complain about water companies charging schools, places of worship and community buildings based upon the surface water drainage use, compared to the previous system of flexible charges. [248149]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, DEFRA received correspondence from approximately 60 Members of Parliament on behalf of either schools, places of worship or community buildings regarding changes to charging for surface water drainage.

For the same period, Ofwat received correspondence from 33 Members of Parliament on the subject.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions has he has had with Ofwat on its decision to encourage water companies to charge schools, places of worship and community buildings according to site area. [248151]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State meets Ofwat regularly to discuss a range of issues. The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and is looking at what can be done.

OLYMPICS

Total Costs

4. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate she has made of the total cost of staging the London 2012 Olympics. [248294]

Tessa Jowell: The cost of staging the games will be met from LOCOG's £2 billion budget.

It is intended that this budget will be self-financed—with the exception of a contribution from public funds towards the staging the Paralympic games. For this there is a provision of £66 million in the £9.325 billion public sector funding package.

7. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the total cost of the London 2012 Olympics. [248297]

Tessa Jowell: The estimate of public expenditure on the London 2012 games remains within the £9.325 billion package that I announced in March 2007.

I provided further details of the budget in my statement of December 2007; and my progress updates of January and July 2008. My next progress report will be in early February.

Economic Downturn

5. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the effect of the economic downturn on the budget for the London 2012 Olympics. [248295]

Tessa Jowell: The recent economic climate has affected the financing of the Olympic Village and the International Broadcasting Centre/Main Press Centre (IBC/MPC) projects.

However the venues and infrastructure for the games—including the Olympic Village and the IBC/MPC—are still on track to be delivered within the £9.325 billion public sector funding package.

King George's Fields Legacy

6. **John Mann:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the relevance of the King George's Fields legacy to the planning of the legacy for the London 2012 Olympics. [248296]

Tessa Jowell: As part of the legacy of the 2012 games we are aiming to have two million more physically active people and to get more young people into sport.

Playing fields can play a vital role in enabling people to be more active and I will be working with other departments to see what role playing fields can have in delivering this legacy.

Ticketing Policy

8. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what ticketing policy has been developed for the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [248298]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee (LOCOG) is responsible for developing its ticketing strategy for the London 2012 games.

I have held detailed discussions with the chairman and Director of Ticketing at LOCOG about the developing strategy, which will be published in 2010. Tickets will go on sale in 2011.

Olympic Games 2012: Digital Broadcasting

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with *(a)* the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and *(b)* other partners on coverage of the London 2012 Olympics on digital radio. [247046]

Tessa Jowell: The broadcasting rights to the Olympic games, which include digital radio rights, are managed by the IOC as part of their intellectual property rights. The UK broadcasting rights to the 2012 Olympic games were awarded to the BBC, as a member of the European Broadcasting Union. The broadcasting rights to the 2012 Paralympic games are yet to be awarded.

Olympic Games 2012: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* students are making use of the pre-games training camps set up in the North East region in preparation for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. [248128]

Tessa Jowell: The North East region has identified 20 Olympic and eight Paralympic venues to be used by the athletes of visiting National Olympic and Paralympic Committees preparing for London 2012. The full range of the sporting facilities and services they can offer are contained in the Pre Games Training Camp Guide produced by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In the majority of cases the pre games training camps are existing facilities with established community use programmes and as a consequence they are available for school and student organisations to utilise.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of income support claims have taken more than the target processing time in each month of the last two years, broken down by benefit delivery centre; [242208]

(2) how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claims have taken more than 12 days to process from when the application was first received in each month of the last two years, broken down by *(a)* benefit delivery centre and *(b)* number of days to process. [242212]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the acting chief executive, Mel Groves to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions - "how many and what proportion of Income Support claims have taken more than the target processing time in each month of the last two years, broken down by Benefit Delivery Centre", and "how many and what proportion of Jobseekers Allowance claims have taken more than 12 days to process from when the application was first received in each month of the last two years, broken down by *(a)* Benefit Delivery Centre and *(b)* number of days to process". This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The target for Income Support (IS) Average Actual Clearance Time is 10 days. This is calculated from the date all the evidence requirements are met by the customer to the date a decision is made on their claim.

For Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) the Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) target is 11.5 days. This was reduced from a 12 day target in 0708 to 11.5 days for 08-09. The AACT is calculated from the date of the initial contact made by the customer to the date a decision is made on the claim.

Our benefit processing systems calculate the AACT for both IS and JSA by taking each claim clearances time using the dates as described and calculates an average across the volume of claims processed. The Management Information system in support of these targets generates reports around percentages and volumes cleared within set time bands. While this provides the business with additional management information it is not in direct correlation with the AACT data as they are calculated in different ways.

For IS the time bands recorded are claims processed in 0-5 days, 0-13 days and all claims processed. The JSA time bands recorded are claims processed in 0-5 days, 0-10 days, 0-16 days, 0 -21 days and all claims processed.

The information for October 2006 to October 2008 broken down by Benefit Delivery Centre has been placed in the House Library. The data recorded is to two decimal places as this is how we receive the raw data, when we formally report our targets we round those figures up to one decimal place.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 58W, on departmental air travel, whether figures for 2007-08 have now been calculated. [242014]

Jonathan Shaw: The air travel figures for the Department for 2007-08, and which are due to be paid imminently to the 'GCO_2F Government Carbon Offsetting Fund', are provided in the following table.

All departmental official travel is undertaken in accordance with civil service management code.

April 2007 to March 2008

	KMs travelled	*Miles travelled*	*tCO_2e (CO_2 emissions)*	*Offsetting cost[1] (£)*
Domestic air travel	12,599,850.34	7,825,994	2169.95	21,504.17
Short-haul air travel	1,047,032.91	650,331	297.64	2,949.63
Long-haul air travel	1,397,087.16	867,756	321.62	3,187.26
Total	15,043,970.41	9,344,081.00	2789.21	27,641.06

[1] To be paid by DWP to GCO_2F.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to page 36 of the Departmental Framework 2008, if he will place in the Library a copy of the future work programme for the Customer Information System. [240331]

Mr. McNulty: To place the work programme for the Customer Information System in the Library would make public information that may jeopardise the security of the Customer Information System and the personal information it holds. Its disclosure would not be in the public interest. I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what computer systems his Department uses to store *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial data, broken down by (i) version number, (ii) supplier, (iii) system name, (iv) underlying database and (v) operating system. [241313]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has 149 major application systems currently supported by its existing hosting contract(s) as listed in the following table. They store and/or access a wide range of financial or non-financial data.

It is not in the public interest to provide the information requested for each system and I refer the hon. Member to the answer on 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Software versions are governed by the Department's Enterprise Architecture which specifies that they should be no more than one version older than the current baseline version, so that systems are up to date and support is available.

Application (short name)	*Application (long name/description)*
ATAS	Audit Trail Analysis Service (amended from System)
ATS	Appeals Tracking System
BAS	Benefits Adviser Service
BAMS	Benefits Agency Medical Service
BCS	Business Controls System
BDBSH	Birkenhead Dis Ben Syst Healthcheck (A)
BEL	Benefit Enquiry Line
BIS	Business Information system
BOC	Better off Calculator
BCS	Business Controls System
CA (GB)	Carer's Allowance formally known as ICA
CA (NI)	Carer's Allowance (Northern Ireland)
CA Online	Carer's Allowance Online
CBS	Call Booking System
CFS	Contract and Funding System
ChIS	Child care Information System
CIB	Corporate Integration Backbone Services
CIS	Customer Information System
CMS	Customer Management System
CMS MIS	Customer Management System Management Information System
CMS NISSA	Customer management System Northern Ireland Social Security Agency
Comet	Comet
Complaints	Complaints Database
CPP	Common Payments Package
CRU	Compensation Recovery Unit
CRU NI	Compensation Recovery Unit NI
CRU On-line	Compensation Recovery Unit Online
CRU Ies	Compensation Recovery Unit Interactive e services
CSA Accounting	
CSR Accounting (BMS/R)	CSR Accounting (BMS/R)
CSA DMS (GB)	CSA Debt Management System
CSCS	Child Support Computer System
CSCS Training	
CSIMS	Customer Services Incident Management System
CSR (CS2)	CSR (Child Support 2)
DACS (NI)	Disability and Carers System (Northern Ireland)
DBS	Departmental Briefing System
DCDB FD	DCDB Fraud Database
DIS	Departmental Interface Server Replacement
DiSC	Disability Services Client System
DLA(NI)	Disabled Living Allowance Northern Ireland
DLACS/AACS	Disability Living Allowance /Attendance Allowance
DM	Debt Management (including DM MI)
DMAS	Decision Making and Appeal System
DMS	Debt Management System
DRS	Document Repository System
ECFPOD	Electronic Claim Form Pensions Overseas Direct
EDON/DVI	Direct Vacancy Input
ELES	ESA LegaSuite Enquiry Service
Elise	Elise
Empower	
eNIRS JC+	eNIRS JC+
ERM	Employer Relationship Management

Application (short name)	*Application (long name/description)*
ESA CAM	Employment Support Allowance Customer Account Management
ESA VME	Employment Support Allowance VME
ETD	Electronic Transfer of Data
FAMIS (PP)	FAMIS Payroll & Personnel
FAMIS ACC	FAMIS Accounting
FAMIS Ingres	FAMIS Ingres
FAO	Financial Accounting Operations
FAS	Financial Assistance Scheme
FRAIMS	Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System
FSD	Flexible Service Delivery
GMS	Generalised Matching Service
HBMS	Housing Benefits Matching System
HBSDC	Housing Benefit Subsidy Data Collection
HQ Library	HQ Library
IeS Core	IeS Core
IICS	Industrial Injuries Computer System
IJB	Internet Job Bank
INCAP	See PSCS/Incap
ISCS	Income Support Computer System
ISCS (NI)	Income Support Computer System Northern Ireland
ITG online	Integration Services Online (Provides new applications with online access to legacy applications which includes the following components: Integration Services Online for PFS, CMS, NTC, CSR and BMSR
ITG batch	Integration Services Batch (Provides new applications with batch access to legacy applications which includes the following components: Integration Services Batch for PFS, CMS, NTC, CSR, BMSR, WFI(P), RM, PXP, CRU, DLA, KFEM, LPS, LMS, NOL, OB, PCFE, GIREC, SIS, VA, DEBTMAN, FNCS, HBSDC, IPBA, IRDEG, NAFM).
IWB	In Work Benefit
JABS	Jobseeker Attendance Band System
JBA	Job Broking Access
Job Broking Access for Partners	
Job Warehouse	Job Warehouse
JSAPS	Jobseeker's Allowance Payments System
Jobpoint KMS	Jobpoint Kiosk Management Service
JSMA	Jobcentre Search and Match app
LFR	Leeds File Registry
LMDW	Labour Market Data Warehouse
LMS	Labour Market System
LMSMI	Labour Market System Management Information
LO/DO/RO/ HO/OA	Office Automation
LPS	Local Payment System
MD	Mesothelioma Database
MFSR (Opstrat Access)	Multi Function Servers providing access to Opstrat applications which includes the following component: MFSR DFP Web Logic Application
MFSR (Printer Access)	Multi Function Servers providing access to Opstrat printing.
MOP	Method of Payment Application—CCMS
MI Challenge Database	MI Challenge Database
MPS	Course booking system
MyDWP	MyDWP
NDDP	New Deal for Disabled People database—client management system AKA NDDP CMS
New Deal for Disabled People	Duplicate of NDDP
NDEMI	New Deal Management Information
NIRS1	National Insurance Recording Systems 1
NOL	Notification Online
NOL/DLA	Notification Online/Disabled Living Allowance
NTC	New Tax Credits
OAS	Overseas Awarding System
OLE	OLE and Trusted Channel
OVBII	Overseas Branch Industrial Injuries
PACS	Payment Accounting Computer System
PCC	Parliamentary Correspondence
PCFE	Pension Credit Front End
PDS2000	Pensions Direct System 2000
PDES	Pension Direct Enquiry Service
PENS	Penserver
PFS	PFS
PFS MIS	Pensions Forecasting System MIS
PIB	PTP Integration Backbone Application
PSCS (NI)	
PSCS/Incap	Pensions Services and Incapacity Benefit Computer System
PSOD	Pension Sharing on Divorce
PTP	Pension Transformation Programme (excluding the PxP PTP component, but including the following components: PTP Siebel Application, eDocs, PTP Bank Wizard, PTP QAS Application)
PxP	Push and Pull
RATS	Reassessment Appeals Tracking System
Respond	Respond Pensions and ICE
RDAS	Referral and Data Analysis Service
RMS	Resource Management System
Rightfax	Rightfax
RKMS	Remote Kiosk Management System
RTPF	Real Time Pensions Forecasting
RPTC	Retirement Pension teleclaims for Northern Ireland
Self Serv Portal	Self Service Portal
SFAS	Social Fund Accounting System
SFCS	Social Fund Computer System
SFCS (NI)	
SIDDB	Sustainability in DWP Database
SPVAFS	Service Personnel and Veterans Agency Futures Suite
Spyts	Special Payments (including CSA)
SSP	Small Systems Platform (Assaults and Accidents Database(AAD), Disability and Discrimination Database (DDB), Electronic Filing System (EFS), Official Correspondence Database (OCD), Under 18 Support Team (UEST)
STARS	Storage and Retrieval System
TeS	Tactical E-Services
TPJB	Third Party Job Bank

Application (short name)	*Application (long name/description)*
VME PROXY	VME PROXY
WFES	Winter Fuels Enquiry Service
WFPS	Winter Fuel Payment System
WFTC	Working Families Tax Credit/Disabled Person's Tax Credit
WFTC/DPTC	
WFTC/DPTC (NI)	
Workstep	Workstep
WPCS (WPKI)	
WPCS (WPKI)	War Pensions Computer System

Employment and Support Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's estimate is of the number of people who will be in receipt of employment and support allowance *(a)* in total, *(b)* in the work-related activity group and *(c)* in the support group in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [241197]

(2) what his Department's estimate is of the number of people who will be on employment and support allowance (ESA), broken down by *(a)* income-based ESA and *(b)* contributory-based ESA in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [241199]

Mr. McNulty: We expect 10 per cent. of new employment and support allowance customers will flow into the support group, and 90 per cent. of new employment and support allowance customers will flow into the work-related activity group. However, we expect that at least 20 per cent. of customers in the longer term employment and support allowance caseload will be in the support group, because these people will be much less likely to leave the benefit than those in the work-related activity group.

Information on estimated caseloads up to the end of the Government's spending plan period, to 2010-11, is in the following table.

Employment and support allowance: estimated benefit caseloads

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
			Thousand
Employment and Support Allowance	100	290	510
Of which:			
Income-based only	40	110	190
Contributory only	50	140	250
Both	10	40	70
Work Related Activity Group	90	240	410
Of which:			
Income-based only	30	90	150
Contributory only	40	120	200
Both	10	30	60
Support Group	10	50	100
Of which:			
Income-based only	0	20	40
Contributory only	10	20	50
Both	0	10	10

Notes:

1. Figures for 2008-09 relate to six months only; employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Figures are consistent with autumn/pre-Budget report 2008 benefit expenditure tables, to be published shortly on the DWP website. These will be accessible via the following link: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Employment: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average income of a lone parent with a single child in receipt of income support was at the latest date for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [244143]

Kitty Ussher: The median net total weekly income for lone parents with a single child in receipt of Income Support is £210.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households.
2. Data for 2006-07 was collected between April 2006 and March 2007.
3. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
4. Weekly income is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, 2006-07

Employment: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to maintain levels of employment in Yorkshire and Humberside. [242683]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Ruth Owen:

The Secretary of State has asked Mel Groves to reply to your question concerning what steps he plans to take to maintain the level of employment in Yorkshire and Humberside. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Mr Groves as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. Mr Groves is currently on annual leave. I am replying on his behalf as Chief Operating Officer.

Jobcentre Plus has a key role in helping both individuals and employers in the current economic situation. Our priority is to ensure people receive the benefits they are entitled to and the support and training necessary to get back to work as soon as possible and help employers fill their vacancies with suitably qualified people.

As you know we have seen a rise in the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance across the region. Jobcentre Plus is very well placed to help people who have recently lost their jobs to move back into work as soon as possible. While around 28,000 new customers claimed Jobseeker's Allowance in November across the region, over 34,000 new vacancies were notified to us and 21,700 customers moved off the register.

We continue to actively engage with employers across the region to help them meet their local recruitment needs. We have had a magnificent response through our Local Employment Partnerships initiative with 3,120 employers now signed up to offering work opportunities for our most disadvantaged customers and newly redundant people, resulting in 6,417 jobs. We are also working closely with local employers and partners, for example, in the call centre, care and retail sectors to offer bespoke pre employment training to fill their significantly increased vacancies. We also offer a wide range of support for people facing redundancy. This includes helping support employers to retain their staff through retraining; and encouraging staff to gain vocational qualifications to prepare for the economic recovery rather than having to make staff redundant. We also support employers where they need to go into short time or temporary stop working and we are tailoring our advice to meet their needs.

A strengthened Rapid Response Service was launched on 12 November 2008, doubling national funding from £3 million to £6 million. Through the Rapid Response Service, Jobcentre Plus has access to funds to enable those individuals made redundant to receive the necessary help to get them back into work. Such measures could include:

Skills Transfer Analysis (to help identify an individual's transferable skills and training needs relevant to the local labour market);

Job-Focussed Training (to assist individuals with appropriate training and certification linked to employment or self-employment linked to the needs of the local labour market).

We will also visit employees facing redundancy at their place of work to explain the support and benefits available to them. Employees can also access the vacancies we hold nationally by visiting our website at www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk or by telephoning us on 0845 6060 234 and by using the jobpoints at their local Jobcentre. Additional information is also available through our 'Job Kit' which provides guidance and support for customers on benefits and how to look for a job and our 'Find your way' leaflet for employers.

The Government announced on 12 January 2009 that it is enhancing the support available to customers who are unemployed for six months from April 2009. This includes further support from Jobcentre Plus advisers, plus options to take up subsidised employment, self employment, training or voluntary work. This will all be available in the Yorkshire and Humber Region, delivered through Jobcentre Plus and partners.

Jobcentre Plus is also represented on the Regional Economic Delivery Group, chaired by the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Minister Rosie Winterton. The group is working to secure and coordinate public sector infrastructure investment and steer the regional response to the economic climate. Reporting to this group is the Yorkshire and Humber Financial Services Task force led by Yorkshire Forward (the Regional Development Agency). This group is co-ordinating the region's response to potential job losses and producing a long term strategy to secure the future of high skilled employment in the sector. This working group is currently developing an action plan to support Bradford and Bingley Building Society. The group will be widening its remit to cover other industrial sectors.

In addition to this support we recently decided that our customers in Yorkshire and the Humber can have access to CV writing, Jobsearch advice and support through our Programme Centres immediately rather than waiting 6 months.

I have asked Ian Hunter, District Manager West Yorkshire, to meet with you to discuss the help Jobcentre Plus are providing to maintain the level of employment across the region.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average *(a)* daily, *(b)* weekly and *(c)* monthly level of housing benefit claimed per claimant was (i) in total and (ii) in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [246594]

Kitty Ussher: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jobcentres

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1993-94W, on jobcentres, what estimate he has made of the number of people using jobcentres in each year since 2002. [241038]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants who had better off in-work calculations carried out by Jobcentre Plus in the last year were found to be *(a)* worse off, *(b)* between £0 and £9 a week better off, *(c)* between £10 and £19 a week better off, *(d)* between £20 and £29 a week better off, *(e)* between £30 and £49 a week better off, *(f)* between £50 and £74 a week better off, *(g)* between £75 and £99 a week better off and *(h)* more than £100 a week better off; and if he will make a statement. [242187]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average time between application and payment of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support was in each month of the last two years; [242207]

(2) what the average time taken to complete the processing of *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support claims from when the initial application was received in each month of the last two years, broken down by benefit delivery centre. [242213]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. I have asked the acting chief executive, Mel Groves to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions:

"what the average time between application and payment of (a) jobseeker's allowance and (b) income support was in each month of the last two years"

"what the average time taken to complete the processing of (a) jobseeker's allowance and (b) income support claims from when the initial application was received in each month of the last two years, broken down by benefit delivery centre"

This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The target for Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) Average Actual Clearance Time (AACT) is 11.5 days. This is calculated from the date of initial contact made by the customer to the date a decision is made on their claim.

The target for Income Support (IS) AACT is 10 days. This is calculated from the date all the evidence requirements are met by the customer to the date a decision is made on their claim.

In other words only JSA clearance times are calculated from the date of initial application date.

Please see attached at annex 1 data that displays the AACT for JSA and IS for each month in the last two years. The data recorded is sometimes to two decimal places as that is how we receive the raw data, when we formally report our targets we round those figures to one decimal place.

Annex 1: JSA and IS AACT for the periods November 2006-October 2007 and November 2007-October 2008

	2006					2007						
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
JSA AACT	14.03	13.2	13.1	13.4	12.85	12.62	12.49	11.04	11.25	11.47	10.61	10.22
IS AACT	11.35	10.24	9.7	8.93	8.79	9.34	9.84	9.54	9.37	9.62	9.61	9.43

	2007		2008									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
JSA AACT	9.42	9.89	9.79	9.75	9.43	9.94	9.65	9.9	10.19	10.43	10.02	9.94
IS AACT	9.19	9.52	8.93	7.92	8.09	8.4	8.15	8.08	8.14	8.15	8.46	8.65

Annex 2: JSA by BDC for 2006-07

	2006					2007						
Business delivery centre	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Aberdeen BDC	8.05	7.78	8.86	8.24	7.84	9.66	9.32	8.36	9.71	8 84	8.81	8.61
Barnsley BDC	14.64	12.4	13.02	13.77	15.48	15.61	17.11	1225	12.05	11.02	10.62	9.12
Basildon BDC	20.02	17.58	16.99	16.69	14.88	15.18	13.27	11.33	11.31	12.24	11.74	11.72
Bathgate BDC	11.21	9.96	9.91	11.19	11.63	12.33	14.97	13.71	14.78	14.41	11.03	11.18
Belfast BDC	12.41	12.14	12.75	12.94	12.79	13.47	13.1	12.58	12.87	12.89	11.36	11.09
Birkenhead BDC	14.1	14.11	13.74	12.88	11.42	10.7	10.7	10.18	10.92	11.27	11.04	10.59
Bolton BDC	11.97	11.12	12.35	14.76	15.8	12.17	11.3	10.14	9.32	10.19	10.43	8.61
Bradford BDC	15.38	15.16	16.11	13.86	15.24	15.34	13.78	10.54	10.82	9.61	10.79	11
Bristol BDC	16.03	17.23	15.6	15.14	15.23	15.48	16.37	15.13	12.74	12.27	11.3	9.56
Burnley BDC	10.94	11.8	13.56	14.05	12.31	12.32	11.44	9.18	11.12	13.95	13.74	12.4
Bury St. Edmonds BDC	16.11	16.76	18.07	18.06	14.58	13.99	13.48	11.43	12.48	11.62	13.13	11.19
Caerphilly BDC	10.34	11.41	10.72	11.19	10.66	11.82	11.48	9.31	8.9	10.34	9.22	7.4
Cannock BDC	14.92	13.58	14.2	12.38	12.56	11.35	13.46	12.53	13.8	16.02	13.01	8.86
Canterbury BDC	13.91	9.46	9.69	11.98	13.45	13.63	13.63	11.26	13.37	13.71	10.73	10.27
Carlisle BDC	11.1	10.46	11.12	11.55	10.03	9.5	8.66	9	8.83	8.23	8.2	8.15
Chester BDC	14	13.25	15.71	16.32	14.64	13.48	16.45	13.08	9.66	7.65	7.36	6.68
Chesterfield BDC	13.18	13.3	12.39	13.11	12.47	11.06	10.97	11.31	11.52	11.29	10.76	11.01
Chippenham BDC	11.04	10.85	10.01	9.63	8.48	8.56	9	9.03	8.41	8.32	7.75	7 88
Chorlton BDC	13.61	13.29	13.78	15.32	14.04	12.37	12.36	12.02	11.74	12.17	11.57	10.17
Clyde and Fife BDC	10.17	11.86	12.29	14.3	13.88	15.21	15.83	13.29	15.81	13.26	11.59	11.29
Clydebank BDC	11.05	11.95	11.92	12.08	10.18	10.77	11.81	10.87	12.34	13.15	12.33	10.93
Coatbridge BDC	14.48	13.54	11.25	12.3	13.02	10.15	10.46	10.47	12.14	11.18	11.34	9.04
Cosham BDC	15.66	14.27	13.67	13.62	12.79	12.75	12.28	12.42	12.08	12.44	12.68	15.33
Derby BDC	13.75	14.69	17.18	18.7	17.42	16.39	14.51	13.58	13.43	12.74	11.15	9.54
Doncaster BDC	12.37	10.88	9.8	10.56	10.04	11.19	10.47	9.29	8.1	8.55	8.55	8.38
Exeter BDC	14.06	15.55	18.01	16.93	12.68	12.52	13.18	11 94	9.79	7.91	9.01	10.29
Glasgow BDC (London)	15.89	16.51	15.59	14.89	14.95	11.94	10.93	9.97	9.89	9.28	9	8.33
Gloucester BDC	15.75	16.54	17.44	14.01	14.79	14.57	11.67	8.95	9.57	9.71	10.31	11.74
Greenock BDC	7.68	8.26	9.07	10.82	7.93	8.06	8.59	8.66	11.16	10.73	9.63	8.81
Hackney BDC	9.58	7.94	8.47	8.88	8.72	9.43	9.33	8.74	10.05	10.47	9.69	9.32
Halifax BDC	14.07	13.5	13.85	15.71	18.13	16.91	17.72	14.6	11.35	10.9	8.7	8.28
Handsworth BDC	21.75	18.85	15.8	12.82	12.81	13.35	12.6	11.64	107	13.73	10.87	11.26
Hanley BDC	20.33	17.22	17.25	17.54	17.18	15.33	15.69	13.58	13.09	13.86	13.13	11
Hastings BDC	15.02	14.12	15.89	16.57	17.29	18.86	17.54	14	11.78	11.67	11.79	15.28
Hull BDC	14.32	13.7	12.53	14.49	15.56	15.85	11.97	9.44	9.16	9.77	8.73	9.51
Huyton BDC	10.69	10.74	9.84	10.35	8.98	9.55	9.11	8.48	9.64	9.66	8.51	8.18
Hyde BDC	11.77	11.13	10.4	10.34	9.26	9.42	10.18	9.07	9.8	11.53	11.23	10.33

Annex 2: JSA by BDC for 2006-07

Business delivery centre	2006 Nov	Dec	2007 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Ilford BDC	14	11.99	11.32	11.27	10.9	11.03	10.97	10.19	9.57	11.42	11.43	10.92
Kilmarnock BDC	12.75	10.73	10.77	12.5	14.95	12.29	13.44	11.53	10.94	11	10.92	11.17
Leeds BDC	10.33	10.49	11.59	12.14	11.59	12.34	11.58	11.29	12.55	1377	11.63	12.02
Leicester BDC	16.81	15.03	14.81	17.07	17.15	14.61	12.22	10.92	10.17	10.5	9.56	9.45
Lincoln BDC	14.23	14.17	14.1	16.24	15.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanelli BDC	10.56	9.13	904	8.79	7.91	9.34	8.48	8.07	8.26	8.31	7.57	7.61
Makerfield BDC	16.27	12.31	10.72	10.94	11.26	9.88	10.17	9.24	9.78	9.87	10.25	10.88
Mansfield BDC	11.33	10.47	12.77	13.94	14.7	16.02	12.95	11.89	12.8	13.48	12.29	11.47
Merthyr Tydfil BDC	9.51	8.99	8.95	9.5	7.99	8.45	8.02	7.47	9.36	10.41	10.2	9.43
Newcastle BDC	12.33	12.28	12.73	13.58	12.46	10.32	10.23	9	8.49	8.96	8.57	8.9
Newport BDC	10.32	8.97	9.98	10.63	9.48	9.89	10.16	9.68	9.36	10 31	10.06	9.4
Norwich BDC	22.93	19.16	18.48	18.29	17.04	16.88	16.13	11.68	13.37	13.85	12.13	12.29
Nottingham BDC	18.18	16.09	17.77	17.22	16.93	14.94	15.69	15.6	16.83	15.27	11.86	10.42
Oldham BDC	14.7	14.24	10.77	9.56	9.05	9.31	10.18	8.8	9.28	9.56	9.65	7.76
Peterborough BDC	17.39	15.46	13.87	14.85	14.9	14.75	11.82	10.99	10.74	10.2	10.52	9.3
Plymouth BDC	10.57	9.42	8.81	10.12	9.68	10.28	10.23	11.52	10.09	10.16	9.82	10.22
Preston BDC	10.19	10.93	10.88	11.37	10.39	9.45	10.75	8.93	8.89	9.08	9.34	10.58
Ramsgate BDC	16.6	17.12	16.24	16.21	15.73	14.66	14.7	12.99	12.28	10.72	11.45	9.22
Ravenhurst BDC	18.5	19.18	19.96	17.53	14.37	14.5	14.35	15.3	17.14	16.62	13.73	14.49
Sheffield BDC	13.33	12.63	12.76	12.99	11.88	11 85	11.36	10.17	12.07	11 58	11.65	10.9
St. Austell BDC	14.44	13.49	14.33	13.91	14.59	13.75	15.03	14.01	13.66	12.69	11.56	10.48
St. Helens BDC	10.44	10.01	10.35	11.2	9.2	10.79	12.27	12.01	10.66	9.9	9.73	9.84
Stockton BDC	15.64	14.54	13.03	12.29	11.28	11.04	11.71	10.32	10.33	102	9.24	9.79
Stratford BDC	11.63	10.72	10.37	9.9	9.35	9.54	9.44	9.29	10.96	10.28	10.15	10.13
Sunderland BDC	15.2	14.49	14.7	12.89	11.69	14.35	15.02	9.47	9.11	10.14	9.74	9.56
Totton BDC	14.79	13.87	14.59	13.62	13.95	18.74	18.55	14.09	13.77	13.77	12.4	10.81
Walsall BDC	17.93	15.82	14.34	15.84	11.31	10.77	13.55	12.36	12.81	15.85	12.54	11.39
Watford BDC	19.6	18.66	17.39	19.97	20.25	21.77	16.52	11.8	12.19	11.57	11.13	10.81
Wellingborough BDC	10.66	9.46	10.17	10.05	9.55	9.02	9.59	8.12	7.71	8.37	8.23	7.81
Wolverhampton BDC	14.65	13.39	13.16	11.77	10.07	10.67	10.83	11.15	11.02	11.99	10.63	11.5
Worcester BDC	13.69	11.74	12.41	14.48	13.87	12.76	11.96	12/22	13.42	14.14	12.49	11.05
Worthing BDC	13.27	11.62	13.16	13.43	12.93	12.02	12.25	10.43	9.58	9.6	8.71	8.29
Wrexham BDC	12.94	11.8	10.39	94	8.71	9.09	9.09	8.71	8.51	9.13	8.52	8.19
York BDC	8.84	10.06	11.17	12.69	11.76	12.11	11.44	9.17	9.6	10.11	10.47	9.94

Annex 3: JSA by BDC for 2007-08

Benefit delivery centre	2007 Nov	Dec	2008 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Aberdeen BDC	9.12	10.71	8.83	8.44	7.67	7.65	8.19	9	8.83	7.27	7.51	8.56
Barnsley BDC	9.03	10.03	9.96	8.96	8.78	10.72	10.05	9.94	9.35	9.99	10.02	9.88
Basildon BDC	10.61	10.1	9.68	9.57	8.91	10.73	10.21	10.12	10.85	10.86	8.79	9.06
Bathgate BDC	9	7.99	7.84	8.56	7.62	7.45	6.98	7.82	8.85	10.74	10.8	10.39
Belfast BDC	9.92	10.93	11.38	11.25	10.08	8.99	9.46	11.79	13.02	11.5	12.82	11.09
Birkenhead BDC	9.8	10.08	9.55	9.6	9.85	10.44	9.68	9.78	9.45	8.76	8.87	9.74
Bolton BDC	7.91	9.3	8.81	10.31	9.38	9.26	8.41	8.72	9.2	10.26	9.9	8.63
Bradford BDC	9.55	9.73	9.68	10.13	11.5	12.74	12.25	10.45	11	10.99	10.96	10.08
Bristol BDC	8.94	9.07	8.91	8.89	9.04	9.63	9.7	10.91	10.79	11.51	11.44	11.57
Burnley BDC	8.47	8.58	8.56	9.46	9.21	9.26	10.48	10.53	9.78	9.64	9.65	10.57
Bury St. Edmonds BDC	11.35	13.42	13.39	11.1	10.78	11.18	12.18	11.65	12.09	13.55	10.13	10.33
Caerphilly BDC	7.69	8.6	7.44	7.97	8.83	8.42	7.99	8.45	9.27	9.37	9.19	8.78
Cannock BDC	7.56	8.09	8.4	8.19	7.79	9.29	8.85	9.71	10.22	11.29	12.01	10.38
Canterbury BDC	9.15	9.04	9.91	10.93	11.1	11.27	10.33	10.81	10.13	11.35	12.48	10.35
Carlisle BDC	7.44	7.79	7.59	8.01	7.91	7.97	7.27	7.09	7.46	8.12	7.55	8.69
Chester BDC	6.99	7.87	9.15	7.11	7.38	8.59	8.83	7.62	8.82	8.73	7.5	7.71

Annex 3: JSA by BDC for 2007-08

	2007			2008								
Benefit delivery centre	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Chesterfield BDC	8.53	9.33	10.05	10.42	10.54	12.29	10.42	8.65	10.85	11.8	11.82	12.47
Chippenham BDC	7.43	8.91	8.78	8.48	8.21	7.91	7.05	7.79	8.39	8.74	8.02	8.24
Chorlton BDC	9.17	9.5	10.15	9.12	9.81	9.63	9.1	9.14	9.33	8.58	9.54	9.38
Clyde and Fife BDC	9.57	10.02	8.74	8.22	7.7	8.88	8.66	9.58	12.05	11.06	11.32	10.33
Clydebank BDC	9.39	10.69	9.46	8.81	8.72	9.72	8.81	8.26	10.73	10.23	10.58	10.26
Coatbridge BDC	8.35	9.19	9.11	8.8	9.45	10.57	9.27	8.9	9.71	8.33	8.06	8.47
Cosham BDC	14.86	13.75	11.38	11.9	12.53	12.68	13.12	14.02	14.05	14.4	11.14	12.82
Derby BDC	10.26	10.78	9.75	10.67	11.56	12.14	10.47	9.82	10.64	11.09	11.32	10.4
Doncaster BDC	6.93	8.62	7.6	9.02	8.16	9.78	11.02	11.19	10.81	10.92	8.91	8.07
Exeter BDC	8.6	9.59	10.9	9.31	7.95	8.83	8.77	8.23	8.87	10.52	9.93	9.21
Glasgow BDC (London)	7.84	8.37	8.55	8.82	9.17	8.51	8.32	8.01	7.7	8.11	8	7.59
Gloucester BDC	10.96	10.18	9.83	9.74	8.71	8.77	7.47	7.58	8.55	10.36	9.44	10.53
Greenock BDC	10.81	14.06	11.36	11.12	7.54	6.75	6.24	6.55	7.02	7.46	7.25	7.28
Hackney BDC	8.61	8.37	8.48	8.96	8.71	9.29	8.26	8.93	9.42	9.7	8.55	10.18
Halifax BDC	8.23	8.84	8.57	8.47	9.09	10.08	9.32	10.26	10.85	11.14	10.66	10.11
Handsworth BDC	9.95	8.9	7.95	8.33	8.85	10.97	10.02	9.91	8.43	9.42	7.95	8.16
Hanley BDC	9.92	10.63	10.72	10.81	10.01	10.75	9.97	10.09	11.06	12.74	12.34	14.28
Hastings BDC	17.52	16.65	17.31	14.29	14.21	15.77	15.07	13.91	10.65	10.66	10.46	11.05
Hull BDC	9.21	10.19	9.47	9.01	7.42	7.4	7.63	8.51	9.41	9.04	7.73	7.31
Huyton BDC	7.66	7.85	7.34	7.32	7.87	7.61	7.14	7.18	7.16	7	6.7	6.79
Hyde BDC	8.24	9.54	9.56	9.67	11.19	11.91	8.31	9.16	9.7	9.17	9.55	8.7
Ilford BDC	10.17	10.87	11.31	11.83	12.45	12.64	11.31	11.69	12.69	14.61	12.46	11.21
Kilmarnock BDC	9.82	9.16	8.93	10.43	8.35	8.64	10.16	9.95	10.8	9.89	8.23	8.54
Leeds BDC	12.12	10.78	9.91	10.82	9.76	12.03	11.35	9.29	10.28	10.99	10.52	8.92
Leicester BDC	8.89	11.07	11.08	10,64	10.39	10.8	11.03	9.1	9.35	10.36	9.68	11.27
Llanelli BDC	7.87	7.65	7.04	7.26	6.62	6.66	6.13	5.92	6.6	6.05	6.37	6.59
Makerfield BDC	11.72	12.63	12.78	10.93	11.52	13.51	12.51	11.84	11.11	12.53	11.85	12.66
Mansfield BDC	10.31	10.07	10.5	10.31	10.53	13.21	11.73	10.45	12.15	11.87	11.12	10.87
Merthyr Tydfil BDC	8.45	8.21	8.68	8.39	7.7	6.64	6.79	6.83	7.55	7	6.86	6.55
Newcastle BDC	7.02	7.68	8.13	7.99	7.82	7.58	7.66	8.62	8.84	8.72	9.69	8.19
Newport BDC	8.44	10.82	11.63	12.93	10.94	9.76	8.66	9.02	10.24	11.67	11.34	11.4
Norwich BDC	10.68	10.76	10.76	10.67	10.1	11.89	10.45	11.04	11.76	11.54	10.26	10.89
Nottingham BDC	10.03	11.83	12.4	14.02	13.19	12.84	13.98	13.58	12.61	12.07	12.49	13.2
Oldham BDC	7.93	9.15	9.39	8.74	8.25	10	9.34	10.77	12.92	11.41	10.32	10.48
Peterborough BDC	9.64	10.11	10.63	11.18	10.89	10.61	10.52	10.8	10.45	9.85	9.03	8.22
Plymouth BDC	9.7	10.27	9.75	9.09	9.71	9.1	9.69	10.48	10.88	11.23	9.85	9.69
Preston BDC	8.94	9.81	9.3	9.03	8.79	9.15	8.84	9.39	8.91	9.53	9.29	9.68
Ramsgate BDC	7.55	8.25	8.89	8.35	9.05	11.23	10	8.82	10.39	11.34	10.49	10.05
Ravenhurst BDC	12.96	12.43	14.82	13.83	10.53	11.16	11.99	11.25	10.53	10.58	10.43	11.17
Sheffield BDC	8.87	9.58	9.69	9.97	10.25	11.3	10.05	9.86	9.78	9.69	9.5	8.51
St. Austell BDC	10.26	9.67	9.98	10.75	9.4	9.61	9.86	10.34	11.57	11.99	10.14	10.16
St. Helens BDC	7.49	7.43	7.33	7.65	7.78	7.62	7.39	9.8	9.24	10.26	8.45	8.4
Stockton BDC	8.45	9.52	8.88	8.69	8.44	9	8.88	9.51	9.85	9.71	10.15	9.97
Stratford BDC	9.63	9.57	9.44	8.96	9.53	9.29	10.82	11.43	11.68	11.69	11.53	11.97
Sunderland BDC	8.86	9.25	8.65	8.81	7.84	8.03	7.23	7.53	8.45	8.82	9.43	10.54
Totton BDC	9.52	9.64	10.18	10.95	11.08	11.77	13.11	13.97	10.47	10.22	10.66	11.48
Walsall BDC	7.82	8.15	7.71	7.39	7.13	7.49	6.81	7.76	7.89	8.46	9.7	8.54
Watford BDC	9.56	10.1	9.17	9.17	8.78	9.64	9.31	9.32	10.22	10.18	9.79	10.04
Wellingborough BDC	7.06	7.61	7.68	8.59	8.37	7.91	7.85	8.08	8.13	8.65	6.82	6.68
Wolverhampton BDC	9.96	10.49	10.69	10.53	9.53	10.86	10.83	11.18	10.8	11.68	10.06	10.11
Worcester BDC	7.88	10.46	[illegible]	[illegible]3	7.91	8.65	8.53	8.39	10.02	11.41	11.63	11.24
Worthing BDC	7.29	7.79	8.54	8.43	8.53	9.22	10.73	11.72	12.11	12.09	12.39	13.76
Wrexham BDC	7.99	8.15	8.04	8.32	8.62	8.74	7.96	7.73	8.43	8.79	8.32	7.96
York BDC	9.4	7.43	7.47	7.56	7.11	9.01	9.47	10.15	10.94	9.54	9.16	10.05

Annex 4: IS by BDC 2006-07

	2006					2007						
Business delivery centre	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Aberdeen BDC	6.55	6.13	6.46	7.23	6.49	7.4	7.54	7.41	7.18	8.55	8.21	7.62
Barnsley BDC	10.7	6.73	7.15	8.46	8.19	8.59	8.83	8.62	7.92	7.72	7.55	7.64
Basildon BDC	20.74	19.22	13.35	11.16	11.41	11.09	10.78	11.79	9.98	9.66	9.51	10.65
Bathgate BDC	9.6	10.46	9.61	8.49	9.29	8.37	11.31	11.23	9.96	7.97	9.05	8.06
Belfast BDC	12.45	9.43	7.83	6.17	535	6.95	7.02	8.01	9.09	9.26	10.25	11.15
Birkenhead BDC	8.97	8.87	9.76	9.36	8.56	9.79	10.34	10.83	10.33	10.11	10.71	10.98
Bolton BDC	9.86	10.13	9.99	9.34	8.57	7.21	8.44	8.95	7.6	8.06	8.39	9.34
Bradford BDC	9.83	8.83	8.46	7.1	7.71	11.12	12.45	12.37	11.04	13.05	10.19	10.3
Bristol BDC	13.46	14.72	16.57	15.06	9.96	8.01	9.21	8.45	7.51	7.88	7.53	8.42
Burnley BDC	11.41	10.25	11.83	11.16	9.8	9.86	10.11	8.61	10.42	11.68	10.68	12.88
Bury St. Edmonds BDC	27.29	25.5	11.58	9.54	9.88	8.49	16.75	9.8	10.3	10.51	10	10.13
Caerphilly BDC	7.51	8.55	8.08	7.09	7.13	7.21	7.15	5.47	5.85	6.24	5.98	6.12
Cannock BDC	9.35	7.91	7.12	7.85	6.8	6.48	7.25	8.66	12.36	16.24	17.19	11.64
Canterbury BDC	14.42	16.19	15.38	12.35	13.45	12.53	12.52	12.15	11.91	12.25	11.94	10.88
Carlisle BDC	8.45	6.86	6.23	5.71	6.67	6.53	5.97	7.35	7.14	6.65	6.28	5.66
Chester BDC	8.07	8.2	8.19	6.24	6.91	7.78	8.59	9.02	9.14	7.96	10.73	11.51
Chesterfield BDC	10.25	9.54	9.92	8.07	8.62	10.8	9.28	9.72	11.45	13.76	11.7	11.42
Chippenham BDC	7.83	7.62	6.9	6.96	8.44	11.29	9.94	6.75	7.91	7.39	7.05	6.69
Chorlton BDC	9.97	10.22	11.97	10.75	9.79	8.84	10.42	9.51	8.55	9.41	11.24	13.98
Clyde and Fife BDC	9.35	8.74	9	9.32	9.54	10.42	13	13.66	10.71	8.77	8.7	9.5
Clydebank BDC	10.92	11.98	10.38	8.8	7.89	10.01	9.04	8.4	10.17	9.9	13.58	8.05
Coatbridge BDC	7.58	7.02	8.32	8.41	7.88	8.77	9.84	9.09	10.5	8.93	9.01	7.62
Cosham BDC	12.39	9.21	706	6.45	6.33	6.42	11.26	13.11	13.52	15.69	15.88	15.71
Derby BDC	9.48	10.35	11.4	12.23	11.11	9.83	9.91	11.01	9.29	9.97	8.85	10.32
Doncaster BDC	11.84	11.4	10.55	9.14	8.05	9.3	8.74	8.25	6.38	5.6	5.44	6.24
Exeter BDC	6.23	7.51	11.25	8.91	8.49	10.01	7.72	7.03	7.94	8.13	6.72	5.81
Glasgow BDC (London)	8.86	7.03	6.44	6.17	7.38	6.43	6.41	6.88	7.14	7.16	7.06	6.82
Gloucester BDC	11.2	11.75	10.67	9.73	13.5	12.9	12.28	10.68	7.94	8.83	9.71	8.52
Greenock BDC	3.81	4.07	3.82	4.71	5.9	5.91	7.4	3.84	5.43	7.26	7.52	8.17
Hackney BDC	14.26	14.2	15.09	10.41	8.59	11.07	11.65	11.82	11.63	10.73	10.28	13.01
Halifax BDC	16.7	14.9	14.52	12.26	12.17	14.65	12.27	10.54	9.29	10.65	9.39	9.36
Handsworth BDC	14.56	14	14.69	8.51	9.01	12.29	10.52	10.33	9.67	9.48	12.79	9.31
Hanley BDC	12.24	11.22	11.38	11.01	10.78	10.63	11.04	11.79	9.92	10.6	10.94	10.78
Hastings BDC	15.88	11.87	14.82	16.36	15.68	18.48	16.95	17.73	21.05	23.2	19.76	14.08
Hull BDC	10.56	9.51	11.45	8.76	10.02	14.77	14.6	9.06	8.6	9.65	8.77	7.32
Huyton BDC	10.17	8.45	7.94	9.96	7.85	9.71	11.39	11.3	11.3	11.91	12.12	10.59
Hyde BDC	9.5	8.11	7.43	7.07	7.09	7.02	7.55	7.71	8.62	10.09	9.73	10.25
Ilford BDC	10.16	7.99	6.85	6.09	6.99	7.28	8.95	8.91	8.13	8.72	9.28	10.1
Kilmarnock BDC	10.05	9.85	11.12	11.95	8.92	10.78	9.96	9.74	11.01	10.58	10.83	11.12
Leeds BDC	10.92	9.93	8.36	8.86	7.58	10.01	9.97	8.86	8.13	8.89	9.49	10.13
Leicester BDC	11.11	7.71	7.76	7.38	8.27	10.57	11.15	10.69	9.84	8.97	8.95	8.32
Lincoln BDC	12.62	7.75	7.71	11.52	13.56	12.76	13.66	12.23	10.42	8.35	8.14	6.4
Llanelli BDC	8.14	7.09	10.39	8.52	5.45	5.43	7.09	8.78	8.53	8.54	7.62	6.84
Luton BDC	16.58	12.9	9.51	7.77	7.21	8.51	7.1	7.75	10.8	10.37	10.72	8.87
Makerfield BDC	14.51	11.3	9.56	8.77	8.06	9.11	9.83	9.43	9.65	10.2	10	11.57
Mansfield BDC	11.16	11.32	10.2	9.96	10.53	14	12.78	14.49	12.57	12.41	10.86	10.72
Merthyr Tydfil BDC	10.32	9.27	8.54	7.28	6.7	6.58	8.33	8.22	6.82	6.75	7.9	7.07
Newcastle BDC	6.79	8.15	6.85	5.31	4.24	5.48	6.13	5.07	6.09	5.52	4.93	5.09
Newport BDC	10.89	9.58	12.31	9.76	10.82	11.29	11.52	11.72	11.87	13.11	13.89	12.05
Norwich BDC	16.16	14.73	11.33	10.66	11.61	11.34	14.23	13.07	15.11	12.74	12.76	8.93
Nottingham BDC	11.2	9.98	7.16	6.44	6.59	7.24	9.17	10.73	10.72	9.8	10.09	10.42
Oldham BDC	11.26	7.62	8.41	7.08	7.8	7.78	8.55	8.7	8.97	8.75	8.36	9.4
Peterborough BDC	19.21	11.88	11.82	9.68	9.53	10.6	10.74	10.87	10.42	10.17	10.65	11.4
Plymouth BDC	12.14	11.92	11.81	12.52	14.45	14.81	14.5	12.72	10.03	6.59	7.29	7.48
Preston BDC	11.37	10.24	7.91	8.01	9.29	9	9.91	9.36	9.55	8.93	10.47	10.84

Annex 4: IS by BDC 2006-07

	2006		2007									
Business delivery centre	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Ramsgate BDC	10.28	11.78	8.7	10.01	8.32	10.32	7.88	6.69	6.43	6.21	6.18	7.17
Ravenhurst BDC	15.56	15.04	13.73	11.44	10.65	12.03	12.24	12.13	12.49	16.2	11.91	10.09
Sheffield BDC	1026	7.51	8.16	9.63	8.44	8.7	9.5	8.93	7.88	7.73	7.56	8.4
St. Austell BDC	10.82	10.44	10.96	10.73	8.97	10.86	10.76	11.79	10.21	9.52	8.11	9.65
St. Helens BDC	8.9	8.98	7.78	8.86	7.2	8.29	8.49	7.34	6.66	8.04	6.16	6.49
Stockton BDC	11.01	9.12	8.37	7.75	9.02	8.17	8.83	8.89	7.9	8.03	7.17	6.83
Stratford BDC	7.75	7.63	7.72	7.95	7.47	9.09	9.64	7.41	8.53	9.15	9.54	8.39
Sunderland BDC	7.94	7.71	6.73	5.92	6.71	5.92	6.85	7.41	6.75	6.61	6.72	6.8
Totton BDC	8.31	7.06	7.04	6.61	6.06	5.71	5.85	5.48	6.38	6.17	6.61	7.46
Walsall BDC	10.98	9.27	6.93	6.67	6.62	6.11	6.65	7.1	8.06	8	7	7.56
Watford BDC	11.01	8.12	7.79	7.27	7.47	8.67	11.08	11.09	10.68	10.96	9.78	10.9
Wellingborough BDC	11.18	8.28	6.9	5.7	5.95	6.33	6.16	5.97	8.43	9.67	8.83	8.44
Wolverhampton BDC	9.94	10.54	8.77	6.97	7.1	6.99	6.63	7.7	7.62	8.91	10.43	12.27
Worcester BDC	18.15	10.55	11.41	12.37	11.89	11.32	11.16	11.66	13.16	14.3	9.88	7.35
Worthing BDC	13.05	10.99	10.33	10.75	10.06	9.84	10.46	9.65	10.55	12.77	13.69	14.01
Wrexham BDC	9.12	9.46	9.16	10.2	9.65	8.48	10.01	8.6	8.11	7.74	6.65	7.38
York BDC	12.13	12.78	9.98	8.19	7.31	9.61	9.97	7.18	7.4	8.34	8.57	10.17

Annex 5: IS by BDC 2007-08

	2007		2008									
Benefit delivery centre	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Aberdeen BDC	7.63	7.89	7.67	8.14	9.51	9.63	8.83	6.26	5.52	5.24	5.38	5.22
Barnsley BDC	6.88	8.16	9.08	8.46	7.98	7.71	7.03	7.45	8.11	8.06	8.1	7.81
Basildon BDC	11.69	10.39	8.51	7.88	7.32	7.55	8.09	9.1	7.84	8.58	8.73	9.37
Bathgate BDC	7.35	7.56	7.71	7.09	7.18	7.61	7.09	7.89	7.72	6.99	7.58	5.38
Belfast BDC	10.94	10.51	11.41	9.71	9.11	9.75	8.23	7.98	8.06	9.24	9.92	8.73
Birkenhead BDC	9.44	9.81	9.16	8.05	8.28	8.21	9.13	9.37	9.27	9.34	9.25	8.47
Bolton BDC	7.11	6.79	5.61	6.56	6.74	6.47	6.79	6.59	6.4	7.06	8.24	11.44
Bradford BDC	7.8	7.83	7.8	6.91	6.85	6.9	9.13	9	7.79	8.27	9.34	9.6
Bristol BDC	8.1	10.07	8.65	8.32	8.92	9.98	11.13	10.84	9.03	8.98	10.46	9.87
Burnley BDC	11.73	10.35	9.77	6.48	7.02	6.91	6.61	6.95	8.56	9.94	9.08	8.25
Bury St. Edmonds BDC	10.46	10.54	9.68	10.34	8.34	6.97	9.88	9.57	9.88	9.85	10.03	10.93
Caerphilly BDC	5.31	6.61	5.09	5.27	6.44	5.44	5.93	5.77	5.69	6.54	6.61	7.38
Cannock BDC	11.2	11.82	12.07	9.86	10.72	10.57	10.39	10.32	10.17	7.79	8.8	10.18
Canterbury BDC	13.99	12.21	9.72	9.86	12.94	11.86	3.51	5.46	8.46	10.09	11.11	11.55
Carlisle BDC	6.48	6.62	5.78	6.28	7.85	7.27	6.4	7.38	7.17	9.77	10.08	9.01
Chester BDC	13.43	13.05	9.74	7.44	7.37	8.9	9.16	8.54	9.87	9.25	8.32	8.86
Chesterfield BDC	10.23	8.57	7.55	7.93	7.29	6.8	6.38	6.63	6.38	6.63	6.66	6.98
Chippenham BDC	5.43	6.72	7.18	7.37	7.65	7	7.03	7.6	8.45	7.99	7.38	7.78
Chorlton BDC	13.88	15.07	9.41	7.96	7.45	8.36	10.48	10.59	11.43	10.05	11.88	12.1
Clyde and Fife BDC	8.88	9.99	8.91	7.74	8.12	9.37	8.19	8.86	9.95	8.2	6.81	8.19
Clydebank BDC	6.56	6.87	7.85	7.96	6.37	6.21	6.96	5.57	6.69	6.34	8.51	6.08
Coatbridge BDC	6.19	7.68	8.1	5.97	6.27	5.43	5.28	5.85	6.18	4.88	5.64	5.25
Cosham BDC	16.34	16.68	14.96	10.35	12.32	11.58	11.48	8.23	10.15	11.82	10.44	12.56
Derby BDC	9.51	10.91	10.59	9.42	8.65	8.79	8.91	8.36	7.55	7.13	7.59	8.58
Doncaster BDC	5.67	5.44	5.71	5.39	4.53	5.6	5.48	5.63	4.84	5.59	5.78	5.02
Exeter BDC	5	6.68	6.53	7.27	8.66	8.36	7.36	6.86	7.69	8.58	8.44	9.14
Glasgow BDC (London)	7.43	6.9	6.99	5.94	5.77	6.13	6.53	6.67	7.35	7.36	8.04	8.23
Gloucester BDC	10.64	11.87	7.93	6.99	8.04	9.06	10.5	8.78	8.35	9.73	8.68	9.33
Greenock BDC	8.88	7.77	7.42	5.1	5.41	5.18	5.34	5.02	6.15	6.74	6.75	4.91
Hackney BDC	10.13	11.6	12.22	11.38	7.33	8.49	7.85	9.27	9.97	8.33	9.96	12.67
Halifax BDC	9.28	10.66	8.63	7.97	7.25	9.57	7.44	6.45	7.48	7.58	7.21	7.47
Handsworth BDC	7.76	6.86	7.54	4.89	5.33	7.39	8.69	8.78	8.88	8.35	8.22	7.92
Hanley BDC	9.82	10.89	10.57	8.83	8.79	12.71	9.67	7.27	8.78	7.96	7.77	9.5

Annex 5: ES by BDC 2007-08

	2007					2008						
Benefit delivery centre	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*
Hastings BDC	11.99	11.79	11.83	11.54	11.47	10.21	10.04	9.68	9.42	9.07	12.29	13.08
Hull BDC	6.06	6.27	6.01	5.78	5.7	5.5	5.5	6.18	5.28	5.33	5.6	5.83
Huyton BDC	5.43	6.72	6.61	5.71	6.77	7.6	9.07	10.03	7.16	7.1	8.7	8.94
Hyde BDC	10.04	9.83	10.28	8.54	9	8.73	9.66	9.03	9.19	8.07	7.41	8.36
Ilford BDC	10.28	11.63	11.1	9.74	9.98	8.9	8.25	9.56	10.54	11.66	10.04	9.39
Kilmarnock BDC	10.64	9.23	7.43	7.19	6.64	8.68	8.69	8.44	7.86	8.2	7.74	8.1
Leeds BDC	9.21	8.77	8.46	8.54	7.94	7.5	6.46	6.28	6.52	6.85	6.74	7.42
Leicester BDC	7.91	8.79	7.55	8.05	8.28	9.48	10.49	9.9	9.26	8.22	9.4	9.13
Lincoln BDC	6.08	8.21	7.28	7.19	8.09	9.07	9.88	9.3	8.69	8.23	8.88	7.62
Llanelli BDC	6.36	7.45	6.16	5.86	5.66	5.81	6.18	6.36	5.64	5.66	6.88	5.92
Luton BDC	9.88	10.46	9.87	9.54	8.69	10.39	10.07	10.21	8.93	9.12	8.23	9.69
Makerfield BDC	10.9	11.68	11.8	8.66	9.32	9.49	10.13	9.94	9.35	8.87	9.07	9.14
Mansfield BDC	9.56	10.56	10.64	9.05	8.34	7.07	9.02	9.9	10.14	9.2	9.68	10.78
Merthyr Tydfil BDC	5.95	7.64	6.35	6.55	6.75	6.25	6.46	7.51	5.63	5.99	6.17	6.67
Newcastle BDC	5.94	5.91	5.32	5.87	5.71	5.48	4.85	5.42	5.29	4.7	4.67	5.42
Newport BDC	9.9	11.63	10.19	8.23	8.34	9.78	11.33	10.94	10.86	10.42	11.51	7.66
Norwich BDC	8.72	10.12	11.2	9.95	11.67	11.12	8.8	7.21	7.13	7.07	7.03	7.6
Nottingham BDC	9.53	10.27	10.05	10.85	9.91	11.27	7.33	6.92	6.12	7.91	10.19	11.09
Oldham BDC	8.4	9.51	10.16	8.5	8.67	9.55	9.1	10.34	8.22	9.27	9.3	8.96
Peterborough BDC	9.72	8.6	8.25	6.53	7.81	8.38	8.78	8.43	8	7.92	8.94	7.81
Plymouth BDC	8.43	10.95	11.19	8.85	8.97	10.46	9.84	10.43	9.1	9.8	9.75	9.1o
Preston BDC	10.17	9.46	9.61	9.86	10.55	10.66	10.44	8.53	8.1	7.4	7.63	8.32
Ramsgate BDC	6.27	5.67	4.82	5.19	5.57	5.51	6.84	6.62	7.74	7.97	6.91	7.51
Ravenhurst BDC	12.28	11.94	11.15	9.53	10.79	10.61	10.06	12.3	12.47	7.17	8.1	10.23
Sheffield BDC	7.35	6.85	4.98	4.67	4.54	5.15	5.24	5.17	4.47	4.96	6.04	6.52
St. Austell BDC	9.69	10.01	9.85	8.78	8.06	8.42	8.9	9.58	10.4	11.01	8.02	7.6
St. Helens BDC	6.13	6.66	5.08	5.3	5.21	5.64	6.5.	6.69	6.71	6.49	7.54	8.33
Stockton BDC	6.51	7.84	8.13	6.62	6.47	7.95	8.61	8.53	7.33	8.69	9.04	10.5
Stratford BDC	8.27	8.39	8.64	7.25	7.06	7.77	7.6	7.55	7.63	8.28	8.06	7.46
Sunderland BDC	6.48	7.4	6.47	6.18	6.59	6.74	6.58	6.23	6.76	6.58	7.64	7.54
Totton BDC	8.15	8.13	7.46	7.33	7.05	6.64	6.93	6.92	6.38	821	9.22	10.07
Walsall BDC	7.59	10.29	8.75	7.9	8.67	9.73	8.66	7.86	6.73	7.09	7.61	8.94
Watford BDC	10.89	10.65	10.01	10.56	10.48	9.37	9.71	9.38	9.87	9.83	9.56	9.93
Wellingborough BDC	8.31	8.25	8.16	6.83	8.22	7.33	6.5	6.24	6.86	6.71	8.28	6.94
Wolverhampton BDC	12.24	11.42	9.26	8.98	9.54	9.48	9.88	10.63	10.68	10.02	11.42	9.74
Worcester BDC	8.04	9.03	9.39	9.09	8.88	9.33	10	9.91	9.61	9.94	7.74	8.57
Worthing BDC	13.13	15.25	14.03	9.04	13.04	11.52	9.66	8.91	8.54	10.84	12.4	13.79
Wrexham BDC	7.4	8.27	6.59	6.24	6.54	7.34	6.49	6.86	7.69	7.78	7.59	6.9
York BDC	10.68	10.35	9.96	9.13	7.53	9.72	9.59	7.92	7.99	6.96	7.28	7.47

Poverty: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition his Department uses of child poverty; when this was last amended; what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the definition; what recent representations he has received on the definition; and if he will make a statement. [261164]

Kitty Ussher: The Department uses three indicators to monitor levels of child poverty; they were established in 2003 following a lengthy period of consultation.

Absolute low income measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms. The threshold is fixed as equal to the relative low income threshold for the baseline year of 1998-99 expressed in today's prices.

Relative low income measures whether the incomes of the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. This indicator measures the number of children living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median equivalised income. This is the indicator which is used to measure performance against the public service agreement target to halve child poverty by 2010-11.

Material deprivation and low income combined provides a wider measure of people's living standards. This indicator measures the number of children living in households that are both materially deprived and have an income below 70 per cent. of contemporary equivalised median

income. More details can be found in the consultation conclusion document, Measuring Child Poverty, available in the Library.

Since 1998 progress has been made against all of the indicators. 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative low income between 1998-99 and 2006-07, a shift from 3.4 million children to 2.9 million children. The number of children living in absolute low income has halved from 3.4 million to 1.7 million. Between 2004-05, the first year data was available, and 2006-07 the number of children in the UK defined as poor using the combined indicator of relative low income and material deprivation fell by 200,000 from 2.2 million to 2.0 million on the particular material deprivation threshold that was chosen.

Low income is not the only dimension to poverty and a child's quality of life, including access to health care, education and a safe environment, are critical. The three indicators are therefore underpinned by the broader Opportunity for all indicators. Opportunity for all is the Government's report on poverty and social exclusion which includes a wide range of poverty and social exclusion indicators for children and young people (as well as working age adults, older people and communities) including health, education and housing. Details can be found on the Opportunity for all website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/ofa

While we have made substantial progress in tackling child poverty we are not complacent. Despite the scale of the challenge the Government's commitment is stronger than ever. The Prime Minister's recent announcement of our intention to legislate on child poverty gives us renewed impetus.

The Secretary of State meets regularly with Cabinet colleagues and others on the issue of child poverty. The Child Poverty Unit was established at the end of 2007 to put a sharper focus on cross-Government working to develop a truly integrated approach to tackling child poverty. The Government are committed to working with stakeholders to develop a strategy and move forward with legislation.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average sum to be lent under the Lone Parent Transition Loans in the next 12 months; what assessment he has made of the effect on this figure of changes to the eligibility rules for income support; and if he will make a statement. [246907]

Kitty Ussher: No such estimate has been made. However, we have now decided to amend social fund crisis loan directions to enable lone parents to receive payment of a transition loan of up to 100 per cent. of their personal allowance rather than 75 per cent. as is the case with existing crisis loans.

Unemployment Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance has been issued to staff at Jobcentre Plus on whether claimants should be awarded employment and support allowance or jobseeker's allowance; and if he will make a statement. [246130]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidance has been issued to staff at Jobcentre Plus on whether claimants should be awarded Employment and Support Allowance or Jobseeker's Allowance. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has provided its business delivery areas, i.e. Contact Centres, Jobcentres and Benefit Delivery Centres, with detailed guidance that clearly sets out the criteria and conditionality for claiming and awarding Employment and Support Allowance, and the administrative procedures for dealing with these claims.

Corresponding guidance on other benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance has been revised to reflect the introduction of Employment and Support Allowance to provide clarity and consistency across benefits, which enables staff to identify potential entitlement to the appropriate benefit, and advise customers accordingly.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crime: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will make a statement on recent trends in rates of prosecution of knife crime in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England. [248589]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) holds no comprehensive record covering all offences in which a knife was a factor. Relevant offences may be prosecuted under a range of legislation, and cannot be distinguished as a discrete body of information.

CPS records do provide a count of the number of offences of possession of an offensive weapon, including knives and other bladed articles, in respect of which a prosecution commenced. Figures for the last three calendar years are summarised on the table below. The figures also include offences of possession of weapons other than knives and bladed articles, but CPS records do not allow these proceedings to be identified separately. Figures are shown separately for CPS Northamptonshire, for England, and for England and Wales in total.

The level of prosecutions for these offences in total has risen somewhat over the last three years. In Northamptonshire the number of offences in which a prosecution commenced rose by 25, or 12.3 per cent. between 2006 and 2008, although there was no change between 2007 and 2008. In England, prosecutions rose over the three year same period by 1,648 (7.2 per cent.), and in England and Wales they increased by 1,656 (6.9 per cent.).

Offences of possession of a knife or bladed weapon which reached a hearing in magistrates' courts

Table (a): CPS Northamptonshire

	2006	*2007*	*2008*
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139 (possession of a bladed weapon in public)	98	115	118
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139A (possession of a bladed weapon in schools)	0	0	3

Offences of possession of a knife or bladed weapon which reached a hearing in magistrates' courts

Table (a): CPS Northamptonshire

	2006	2007	2008
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (1(1)) (possession of "any offensive weapon." These figures may include some offences relating to bladed weapons, but these cannot be identified separately.)	106	114	108
Total offences	204	229	229

Table (b): England

	2006	2007	2008
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139 (possession of a bladed weapon in public)	10,556	10,620	12,567
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139A (possession of a bladed weapon in schools)	174	174	233
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (1(1)) (possession of "any offensive weapon." These figures may include some offences relating to bladed weapons, but these cannot be identified separately.)	12,103	11,544	11,681
Total offences	22,833	22,338	24,481

Table (c): England and Wales

	2006	2007	2008
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139 (possession of a bladed weapon in public)	11,118	11,185	13,205
Criminal Justice Act 1988 S139A (possession of a bladed weapon in schools)	188	179	240
Prevention of Crime Act 1953 (1(1)) (possession of "any offensive weapon." These figures may include some offences relating to bladed weapons, but these cannot be identified separately.)	12,846	12,263	12,363
Total offences	24,152	23,627	25,808

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on ammunition for operations in Helmand province in each month since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [245682]

Mr. Hutton: Operation Herrick (Afghanistan) costs are prepared and audited on an annual basis for the whole of the operation and do not identify separately information on the cost of ammunition used in Helmand Province, where UK operations began in 2006-07. The un-audited internal data on the consumption of ordnance-related stock for the whole operation in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is:

Afghanistan	*2006-07*	*£ million 2007-08*
Guided weapons, missiles and bombs	47	57
Armament Stores	69	121
Total	116	178

Notes:
1. These costs include the use of ammunition expended during pre-deployment training.
2. Armament stores mainly relate to ammunition and shells but can also include such items as the issue of small arms.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of UK military intervention in Afghanistan in each year since it began. [248734]

Mr. Hutton: The total annual audited cost of operations in Afghanistan are set out in the following table:

Afghanistan

£ million

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total to date*
Resource costs	187	236	36	58	148	560	1,071	1,511	3,807
Capital costs	34	75	10	9	51	178	433	807	1,597
Total	221	311	46	67	199	738	1,504	2,318	5,404

MOD identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred. The costs that would have been incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—such as training exercises—are taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

Note: The figures for 2008-09 are unaudited estimates reflected in the Winter Supplementary Estimates published in November.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what fuel will be used to power the new aircraft carriers; and what their home port will be. [248692]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Future Aircraft Carriers (HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales) will be powered using marine diesel fuel. Their home port will be Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* single living accommodation and *(b)* service families accommodation units containing asbestos. [248657]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Although information on asbestos in accommodation is available, it is not held centrally or in a consistent form and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were made to Modern Housing Solutions on the quality of repairs undertaken on service families accommodation in the last 12 months. [248660]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A total of 508 complaints were received by Modern Housing Solutions (MHS) between 1 January and 31 December 2008 specifically about the standard of workmanship.

MHS is responsible for the maintenance and repair of approximately 45,000 service family accommodation properties in England and Wales.

Armed Forces: Internet

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether *(a)* the Army and *(b)* his Department has received (i) complaints from members of the public and (ii) communications from police forces about content posted on internet social networking sites by serving Army personnel; [248688]

(2) what measures *(a)* the Army and *(b)* his Department have in place to monitor content posted on internet social networking sites by serving Army personnel; how many instances of sectarian or racist postings by soldiers have been identified; and whether any Army personnel have been disciplined as a consequence of such activities. [248694]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: While certain websites are monitored to gauge opinion in response to events, neither the Army nor the Ministry of Defence has procedures routinely to monitor material posted by Army personnel on internet social networking sites.

There are no records of the Army or the Ministry of Defence having received communications from police forces about content on such sites, but during 2008, the Ministry of Defence received a very small number of complaints from members of the public regarding postings allegedly by serving Army personnel. Of those, only two cases were found actually to involve serving personnel and alleged sectarian or racist behaviour. In both cases, following thorough investigations, formal disciplinary action was deemed inappropriate.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual trained strength of each (i) regular infantry and (ii) Royal Marine battalion is. [248693]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Figures for Infantry battalions are shown in the following table:

Division	*Unit*	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	541	480
	1 Coldstream Guards	535	489
	1 Scots Guards	605	464
	1 Irish Guards	541	473
	1 Welsh Guards	535	480
Scots	1 Scots	541	543
	2 Scots	535	474
	3 Scots	539	446
	4 Scots	608	460
	5 Scots	556	458
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	608	524
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	533	460
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	605	491
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	533	419
	1 Royal Anglian	577	590
	2 Royal Anglian	539	495
Kings			
	1 Lancs	577	548
	2 Lancs	524	503
	1 Yorks	539	458
	2 Yorks	533	400
	3 Yorks	605	466
PoW	1 Mercian	539	430
	2 Mercian	533	493
	3 Mercian	576	514
	1 Royal Welsh	533	432
	2 Royal Welsh	605	487
Rifles	1 Rifles	533	542
	2 Rifles	533	534
	3 Rifles	533	541
	4 Rifles	577	557
	5 Rifles	605	600
RI	1 Royal Irish	554	448
Para	1 Para	349	497
	2 Para	556	506
	3 Para	556	507

In addition to the battalions shown in the previous table there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required:

Unit	Required strength	Actual strength
N Coy Grenadier Guards	101	101
7 Coy Coldstream Guards	101	84
F Coy Scots Guards	101	97

Figures for Royal Marine Commandos units are shown in the following table:

Unit	Required strength	Actual strength
40 Cdo RM	703	546
42 Cdo RM	703	701
45 Cdo RM	703	825

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel at each grade or rank are working within his Department and the armed services on the delivery of the defence training contract awarded to Metrix. [247065]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of Defence personnel who are employed in the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1 Integrated Project Team to deliver the DTR Package 1 contract are as follows:

Military Personnel:

Brigadier x one
Captain RN x one
Commander x one
Wing Commander x one
Lt Colonel x two
Major x one
Warrant Officer two x two
Lt Commander x two
Squadron Leader x one
Ministry of Defence Police Chief Inspector x one

Civil Service Personnel:

B1 x two
B2 x three
C1 x 10
C2 x five
D x four
E1 x two

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what revisions have been made to the timetable and the budget for the delivery of package 1 of the defence training contract awarded to Metrix; and if he will make a statement. [247066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No further revisions have been made to the timetable and budget for defence training review package 1 since my statement on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 453.

The Metrix consortium's revised proposals have been received and are being evaluated. Only once the evaluation process has concluded can any definitive judgment be made for the future programme.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the requirements are that form the basis of the request his Department has made to Metrix to submit a revised plan for package 1 of the defence training contract. [247067]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requirements of the request to Metrix were to formally establish an affordable package 1 and confirm that the project can be delivered, and is commercially and technically compliant. The request did not seek a full resubmission of the Metrix bid, but instead asked for responses to a number of key project issues across work streams that have changed since the Preferred Bidder announcement and have the potential to affect the project's performance, cost or timetable.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of the Warrior Fightability and Lethality Improvement Programme on the Defence Support Group; and what partnering arrangements are being considered; [247775]

(2) what procurement arrangements have been made for the Warrior Fightability and Lethality Improvement Programme; and if he will make a statement. [247776]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Warrior Fightability and Lethality Improvement Programme is part of the wider Warrior Capability Sustainment Programme (WCSP), which will upgrade the Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle to meet the current and future requirements of the British Army. The programme is in the early stages of its Acquisition Cycle and, as it progresses into its Assessment Phase, it is planned that bidders will develop hardware demonstrators of their turret proposals, along with supporting technical and commercial submissions for further consideration. As the programme has not yet passed the Initial Gate approval point, I am unable to comment further on the proposed procurement arrangements or on the programme's effect on the Defence Support Group at this time.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons were for the decision to restructure the Future Rapid Effects System programme. [248363]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the Equipment Examination written ministerial statement given on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on commercial conditions affecting General Dynamics UK's ability to procure the Piranha V contract; and if he will support General Dynamics UK in bidding for the contract. [248365]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The withdrawal of General Dynamics (UK)'s provisional preferred bidder status for the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES) Utility Vehicle Design was announced to this House by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 11 December 2008, as part of a statement outlining the results of the Equipment Examination. This decision followed a period

of intensive negotiations with GD (UK), including correspondence with the company, to address a number of commercial issues, during which it became clear to both parties that it would not be possible to reach agreement on the commercial conditions required to enable further progress on the basis of the current procurement strategy. The Department will now consider how and when to reset the Utility Vehicle competition to ensure we provide Defence with the best possible capability at the best value for money. General Dynamics (UK) will have an opportunity to compete in any future Utility Vehicle competition.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247363]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information is not held in the format requested. Data has been collected, however, as part of a special annual survey exercise carried out across Government on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector (OTS), Cabinet Office. The information provided to the OTS shows the following payments have been made to charities and voluntary organisations in the five years 2001-02 to 2005-06:

£

Ministry of Defence	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Estimated total	31,604,000	31,897,000	30,817,000	31,325,000	23,211,000
comprising					
Forces' Welfare, inc. sport, other	10,859,000	11,983,000	11,705,000	10,194,000	11,755,000
Vol cadet groups	15,945,000	15,314,000	14,670,000	15,069,000	8,879,000
Museums	4,800,000	4,600,000	4,442,000	6,063,000	2,577,000

Notes:

1. Expenditure on "Forces welfare including sport and other voluntary cadet groups" includes organisations to support service personnel. Their families and veterans, e.g. SSAFA, WRVS, Pre-school Learning Alliance, NAAFI, The Naval Families' Foundation, Help Information Voluntary Exchange (HIVE) and sports bodies.
2. Museums include, for example, the RAF museum and the National Army museum.
3. Voluntary cadet groups refer to those groups run by volunteers in schools, rather than groups based in, for example, Territorial Army premises, and which receive a contribution from the MOD; also to Sea Scouts. These count as uniformed voluntary youth groups, and are accepted as such by MOD and OTS.
4. The figures do not include expenditure by any MOD agencies/NDPBs, e.g. Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, or the Met Office.
5. Information on the expenditure to voluntary bodies for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is in the process of being collected by MOD.
6. Neither MOD nor the Cabinet Office can guarantee that the figures provided cover the total expenditure with the charities and voluntary sector. The MOD is aiming to provide more comprehensive figures in the collection process which is currently underway for 2006-07, 2007-08 and future years.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress has been made on developing high performance steel armour; and what plans the Government has to purchase such steel for the armed forces; [247017]

(2) if his Department will make it its policy to obtain new steel armour from UK manufacturers. [247018]

Mr. Quentin Davies: High performance steel has been a key constituent of armour for many years. A collaboration between the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL), Cambridge university and QinetiQ has resulted in the development of a new, high performance armour steel known as Super Bainite. Successful production trials have been completed and we are engaging with UK industry to take production and exploitation forward.

We have no current plans to alter our policy of sourcing steel armour from suppliers worldwide. This approach ensures the best armour solutions for defence and the best deal for the taxpayer.

Defence Support Group

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the synergy study on the Defence Support Group will be published. [247777]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Work is continuing on the synergy study, with the Defence Support Group currently undertaking to examine the similar work activities carried out at its Sealand, Stafford and Donnington sites. This study's aim is to explore the potential benefits for Defence resulting from the merger of the Army Base Repair Organisation and the Defence Aviation Repair Agency to create the Defence Support Group. I will write to my hon. Friend when this work is complete.

Defence Support Group: Apprentices

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of new apprenticeships the Defence Support Group plans to commission at Donnington, Shropshire in 2009; and what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on expanding the programme to support West Midlands manufacturing in the current economic climate. [247774]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Defence Support Group management team at Donnington is currently discussing what intake of new apprentices is required for 2009. Intake numbers will be determined by the future needs of the business as well as age profiling of the existing work force. No discussions have taken place about

expanding our apprentice programme to support other local manufacturing organisations beyond what is currently being offered.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many official journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by plane in each of the last five years. [247505]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I can confirm that all travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248387]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Food and drink provision across MOD establishments is usually met through facility management multi-activity contracts, or is contracted out under the Pay As You Dine initiative, in which catering contractors are responsible for sourcing their own food and drink. Details of each supplier and costs are not held centrally and therefore could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Food and drink for personnel on overseas operations, on UK exercises, and serving on ships and submarines is provided by the MOD single food supply contract with Purple Foodservice Solutions Ltd. (PFS). PFS is required to seek value for money in the open market, consistent with meeting MOD quality standards. Additionally, suppliers of ration pack and in-flight meals and snack components are listed in the following table.

£

Food	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 to date*[1]
BCB Int Ltd.	n/a	10,200	36,495
COMPACT AS (Norway)	n/a	35,424	n/a
Drytech (Norway)	n/a	n/a	29,700
Headland food	n/a	n/a	500,345
Kerry foods Ltd.	128,274	44,518	78,453
Lovering Foods	75,532	174,532	n/a
LSG Sky Chefs UK Ltd.	154,328	n/a	n/a
Multi-Pack Foods	682,800	340,082	1,139,983
NAAFI	452,220	323,493	383,329
Nairns Oatcakes Ltd.	684,794	684,794	684,794
Nestle	140,968	391,985	n/a
ORIFO	n/a	40,040	n/a
PFL	1,146,512	1,146,512	1,146,512
Single Source Ltd.	140,579	140,579	140,579
Westler Foods Ltd.	2,128,048	2,128,048	2,128,048
FRA Angelico Ltd.	715,154	712,743	1,054,567
HL Foods	1,841,642	1,841,642	1,841,642
Drink			
Chequer Foods Ltd.	130,273	130,273	105,033
CompacT AS (Norway)	11,232	22,461	n/a
Eurogran AS	142,243	142,243	119,338
Far Side Marketing	40,594	5,376	n/a
Glaxosmithkline	183,118	557,570	769,260
HL Foods	54,897	29,278	29,360
Kraft Foods	n/a	n/a	140,625
Single Source Ltd.		34,353	65,408
Symington's Ltd.	43,916	43,916	43,916
Unilever	n/a	5,550	35,224
Other			
3663[2]	85,392,477	n/a	n/a
PFS[2]	78,282,422	144,755,251	123,676,340
Medentech water purification tablets	32,669	32,669	97,200

n/a = Not applicable
[1] To date
[2] During 2006-07 the Global Food Supply contract was re-let; therefore, spend was split between 3663, the previous contract holder, and PFS

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246015]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's assessment of its performance against its targets relating to the diversity of our workforce is contained in the annual report against our Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008-11. The report covering the period 2007-08 will be published early January, and will be available both in the Library of the House and on the website:

www.mod.uk.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248409]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 98W.

Military Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Tucano aircraft are in service with the Royal Air Force; and what plans have been made to manage the retirement of the fleet. [248174]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 105W.

The run-down of the Tucano fleet will be managed so as to achieve a smooth transition to any replacement capability delivered as part of the UK Military Flying Training System and will ensure that training commitments are met.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many air-to-air refuelling sorties were flown by the *(a)* Tornado and *(b)* Harrier fleets in the United Kingdom in each month of each of the last five financial years; [248571]

(2) what the rate of rejection of eco-engines from first line in the United Kingdom was in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248526]

(3) how much aviation fuel was transferred to the Tornado air defence and ground attack fleets during air-to-air refuelling operations in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248527]

(4) how much aviation fuel was used by the Tornado air defence and ground attack fleets in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248528]

(5) how much aviation fuel was consumed by the Harrier fleet in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years; [248577]

(6) what the rate of rejection of RB 199 aero engines from first line was in the United Kingdom in each week of each of the last five financial years. [248585]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member.

Military Intelligence

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department plans to begin the next phase of the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance capability. [248581]

Mr. Quentin Davies: ISTAR capability is being developed through a range of programmes which are at different stages. Accordingly it is not possible to identify a distinct and comprehensive phase of ISTAR capability.

Our general approach to ISTAR capability was set out in the MOD Memorandum published in the HCDC report on 'The contribution of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles to ISTAR capability' (Thirteenth Report of Session 2007-08).

Missiles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what upgrades were made to Brimstone air to surface missiles during 2008; and what further upgrades his Department has planned. [248175]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During 2008 the Brimstone missile was upgraded to provide an air-launched low-collateral variant that could be used against static and moving ground targets. In addition, we are currently considering the development of an Insensitive Munition variant of Brimstone.

Trident

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Trident II systems his Department is planning to build; and what estimate he has made of the likely length of time between the delivery of each Trident II. [247539]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 111W.

Turkey: Defence Sales

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the public purse has received for the sale of the three Type-42 destroyers Glasgow, Cardiff and Newcastle to a Turkish ship breaker. [248812]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The final sale price for the T42s will be dependant on the volume of metals salvaged and its market price following recycling. The arrangement entered into by the MOD, secured following a competitive tender, will provide a minimum guaranteed price and potentially a further payment depending upon the prevailing market conditions.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reservations his Department is seeking to make in relation to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [248192]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Reservations and/or interpretative declarations in respect of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities are being considered by four Departments: Home Office, Ministry of Defence, DCSF and DWP. This information is in the public domain and was most recently referred to in an answer to Lord Morris of Manchester by Lord McKenzie of Luton, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Department for Works and Pension on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column WA65.

The precise details of the reservations/interpretative declarations are being finalised by the four Departments, and will be subject to clearance by DA Committee before the necessary Explanatory Memorandum for ratification of the convention is laid for parliamentary scrutiny.

The Ministry of Defence has indicated that there is a need to enter a reservation in respect of the armed forces reflecting the relevant provisions of EC Framework Directive Employment (2000/78/EC) and the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). MOD officials are working closely with DWP officials to finalise the wording of the armed forces' reservation which is required to preserve the combat effectiveness of the armed forces.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce plans to trial further technology demonstrator unmanned aerial vehicles. [247761]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The Mantis and Taranis UAV technology demonstrator programmes are already progressing. UAVs have proved their worth on current operations and we recognise the role they are likely to play in the future mix of military capability. Details of further relevant research activities are contained within our Defence Technology Plan, due to be published shortly.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Predator or Reaper systems have been purchased by the Government; and how many are still flying. [248691]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have purchased one Reaper system (also known as Predator B), comprising air vehicles, ground stations, communications infrastructure and HQ facilities. I am withholding information on the number of air vehicles currently in use as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Veterans: Pensions

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans who have been diagnosed as having less than 12 months to live, have applied for a serious ill-health lump sump payment under an armed forces pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [244828]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No veterans, diagnosed as having less than 12 months to live, have applied for a serious ill-health lump sum payment under armed forces pension scheme 2005.

Warships: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* surface ships and *(b)* submarines are on order; and when each is due to be (i) completed and (ii) entered into service. [247016]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We are in the middle of a very large programme of investment in new warships, centred on the Type 45 Destroyers, the Future Aircraft Carriers and the Astute Class submarines.

Of the six Type 45 Destroyers on order, two, Daring and Dauntless, have been built and commenced their sea trials. The other four vessels, which are in various stages of build, are expected to reach similar stages in the coming years: Diamond in 2009, Dragon in 2010, Defender in 2011 and Duncan in 2012. Daring is expected to enter into service next year with the other five at a rate of approximately one a year thereafter.

The two new Aircraft Carriers, Queen Elizabeth and the Prince of Wales, were originally due to enter service in 2014 and 2016 respectively. The Equipment Examination found that there is scope to improve alignment with the Joint Combat Aircraft project. This is likely to mean delaying the in-service dates of the new carriers by one to two years.

The four Astute Class submarines that have been ordered (Astute, Ambush, Artful and Audacious) are in various stages of production. The planned in-service dates are subject to ongoing detailed review. There has, however, been some delay to the programme and we are in the process of re-baselining the programme timetable and an announcement will be made in due course. We intend to note a further three submarines in this class.

TRANSPORT

Air Routes

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances he would consider designating the air link between London Gatwick and Plymouth as a Public Service Obligation (PSO) route as defined in European Regulation 2408/92 and 95/93; and if he will make a statement. [248094]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The criteria for imposing a PSO were set out in "Guidance on the Protection of Regional Air Access to London", published by the Department in December 2005. It can be found on the DfT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/domestic/praa/

Under the Guidance, it is for regional stakeholders or devolved Administrations to apply to the Secretary of State for a PSO to be imposed. No application has been received in relation to the Plymouth to Gatwick route.

The EU rules governing the imposition of PSOs on air routes have been refined by Regulation EC 1008/2008. The Department will be revisiting the 2005 guidance in the light of this, but we do not anticipate making large scale changes.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on the designation of the air service between London Gatwick and Plymouth as a public service obligation route in accordance with EC Regulation 2408/92 and 95/93; and if he will make a statement. [249383]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The criteria for imposing a PSO were set out in "Guidance on the Protection of Regional Air Access to London", published by the Department for Transport in December 2005. It can be found on the DFT website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/domestic/praa/.

Under the guidance, it is for regional stakeholders or devolved Administrations to apply to the Secretary of State for a PSO to be imposed. No application has been received in relation to the Plymouth to Gatwick route.

The EU rules governing the imposition of PSOs on air routes have been refined by Regulation EC 1008/2008. The Department will be revisiting the 2005 guidance in the light of this, but we do not anticipate making large scale changes.

Aviation

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of UK regional air services are operated by each airline in each region. [248095]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The information requested is set out in the following table, which has been compiled by the CAA.

Major airlines' percentage share of UK terminal airport passengers (scheduled and charter) by DFT planning region in 2007

	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	North of England	Midlands	South West	South East	Percentage Total UK excluding Channel Islands
Aer Arann	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Aer Lingus	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	1
Air Southwest	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Bmi	5	0	9	2	0	0	3	3
Bmi Regional	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bmibaby	4	34	8	2	18	0	0	2
British Airways	12	0	0	4	0	0	24	16
EasyJet	18	1	41	11	5	39	11	13
Emirates	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	1
Flybe	7	3	16	4	8	9	2	4
Flyglobespan	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Jet2.Com	1	0	6	9	0	0	0	2
KLM	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
KLM Cityhopper	1	8	0	2	1	2	0	1
Loganair	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monarch Airlines	1	0	0	5	6	0	2	2
Onur Air	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
Ryanair	11	0	6	10	14	13	12	12
Thomas Cook Airlines (MyTravel)[1]	2	8	4	3	3	2	0	1
Thomas Cook Airlines (Thomas Cook)[1]	2	0	0	5	5	1	1	2
Thomson Airways[2]	2	25	0	9	12	8	2	4
First Choice Airways[2]	1	7	1	4	5	7	1	2
Virgin Atlantic Airways	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	2
XL Airways UK[3]	1	1	0	3	0	2	1	1
Others[4]	17	6	7	19	16	12	31	25
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] MyTravel and Thomas Cook Airlines have now merged.
[2] Thomson and First Choice Airways have now merged.
[3] XL Airways filed for bankruptcy in September 2008.
[4] Airlines which don't have at least a 2 per cent. share of passengers in any regions (may include subsidiaries of named airlines).

Notes:
1. Terminal passengers are sourced from CAA Airport Statistics, and includes all reporting UK airports.
2. A one-way domestic trip is counted twice, on departure from one airport, and on arrival at the other.
3. Using other measures of airline activity, such as flights, or passenger or seat kilometres, will give a different picture.
4. Individual airlines are listed where they hold a unique air operator certificate. However, some may have common ownership, such as the three bmi airlines.

Aviation: Monopolies

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of overall airline activity in a region would have to be provided by one operator for the position to be considered a regional monopoly; and if he will make a statement. [248093]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The provision of air services is subject to general UK competition law. The EC treaty and the Competition Act 1998 both prohibit, in certain circumstances, conduct by one or more undertakings which amounts to an abuse of a dominant position in a relevant market.

Any assessment of whether an undertaking is dominant in a relevant market, including an airline in the provision of air services, would be a matter for the Office of Fair Trading. Whether an undertaking is dominant will be dependent on both the relevant market definition and the ability of the undertaking to act independently of its competitors, customers and consumers rather than any overall percentage share of a market.

Channel Tunnel Railway Line

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what charges are levied on freight companies for use of the high-speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link between London St. Pancras and Ebbsfleet International; and how much freight has been moved on this line since it was commissioned in 2007. [249304]

Paul Clark: The future charges for freight companies to use the Channel Tunnel Rail Link have been subject to recent consultation and High Speed 1 is discussing these charges with freight companies and industry representatives as part of their consideration of that consultation. Further details can be found on the HS1 website at:

www.highspeed1.co.uk

Freight services have yet to commence on the new line, and no significant freight has been moved on it since 2007.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will extend the boundary for exemption from the Dartford Crossing toll to residents of Billericay, Sevenoaks, Erith and Thamesmead, Gravesham, Bexleyheath and Castle Point. [248856]

Paul Clark: The purpose of the charge at the Dartford crossing is to tackle congestion. The local discount areas of Dartford and Thurrock were established following a consultation process, and were the maximum that could be justified to enable us to maintain a kerb on increasing levels of traffic using the crossing. But we said that we would keep the local discount scheme under review. The scheme has been in operation for only two months and it is too early yet to review either its operation or eligibility.

Departmental Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department and its agencies in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how much was spent on such bonuses in each of those years. [249863]

Mr. Hoon: The number of bonuses awarded to senior civil servants in the Department for Transport in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and the amount spent in each of those years is set out in the following table:

	Number of bonuses	*Total cost of bonuses (£)*
2007	152	1,282,100
2008	139	1,344,831

Driving Tests

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers passed their driving test on the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third or later attempt in (i) England, (ii) the North West and (iii) Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council in each year since 1997. [247155]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The Driving Standards Agency has provided details of the number of drivers who passed their driving test by attempt at GB level, dating back to 2004. The DSA cannot provide any further information without incurring disproportionate costs.

GB figures

		Attempt 1	*Attempt 2*	*Attempt 3*	*4 plus attempts*
2004-05	Passed	370,281	197,596	85,595	53,546
2005-06	Passed	329,400	206,573	114,961	129,091
2006-07	Passed	331,137	201,883	112,134	131,175
2007-08	Passed	344,276	207,076	110,756	121,524
2008-09	Passed	271,782	158,214	83,638	95,483

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcycle testing sites with *(a)* areas capable of conducting Module 1 tests and *(b)* areas for whole part tests in England he plans to provide by March 2009; if he will make a statement. [248579]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The consultation exercise, on proposals to improve delivery for the new practical motorcycle test by splitting it into two modules, ended on 9 January. Module 1 would be the specified manoeuvres element and module 2 would be the road riding element. The responses are still being analysed.

If the test is split into two modules, current estimates are that the Driving Standards Agency will have in place around 61 operational sites for module 1 and around 100 locations from which module 2 tests will be delivered.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department *(a)* has spent since 2000 and *(b)* proposes to spend in future years in (i) Poole and (ii) England on the implementation of changes to motorcycle testing required by the Second European Directive on Driving Licences. [248580]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The amount spent on the Multi-Purpose Test Centre project in England is £40,684,467.

So far £100,666 has been spent on searching for suitable sites in Poole and conducting feasibility studies. The planning application for the identified site is currently at appeal. If successful, then the development of the site will proceed as a private developer scheme with an annual rental to The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) of £170,000 exclusive of VAT.

The forecast spend in England over the next two years is £14,185,989.

Driving: Insurance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the organisers of the Young Marmalade scheme to encourage additional training for young, newly qualified drivers in return for lower insurance premiums. [249638]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Managing Director of Young Marmalade has had two meetings with officials, and some associated correspondence, to present the company's products and information about their customers, who are encouraged to take Pass Plus or other post-test training.

Freight: Birmingham

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the findings of the pilot study on freight options of British Waterways in respect of the Birmingham area; and if he will make a statement. [247519]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The pilot study undertaken by British Waterways and Brumcan in Birmingham was a local initiative designed to show other local businesses the benefits of using the canal network to move their goods.

The Department for Transport promotes the use of waterborne transport, where this is feasible and delivers clear environmental benefits, through the Sustainable Distribution Fund.

Fuels: Businesses

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much transport fuel used by businesses in the UK was purchased in each other EU member state in the most recent period for which figures are available. [247119]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not have specific data on how much transport fuel used by business in the UK is purchased in other EU member states or in which states.

However, HMRC do estimate the cross-border shopping market share for diesel in Great Britain and the non-UK-duty paid market share for petrol and diesel in Northern Ireland. These are presented in the HMRC publication 'Measuring Indirect Tax Gaps—2008':

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2008/mtg-2450.pdf

HMRC does not estimate how much aviation fuel used in the UK originated overseas.

HMRC provisionally estimate that in 2006, 650 million litres of diesel consumed in Great Britain was purchased abroad—equivalent to 3 per cent. of the GB diesel market. For Northern Ireland there is no split between cross-border shopping and the illicit market. HMRC estimate that the total non-UK-duty paid market share is 335 million litres for diesel and 75 million litres for petrol.

Haulage

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the contribution to gross domestic product the road haulage industry has made in the last 10 years. [247556]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The contribution of the road haulage industry to gross domestic product is provided in the following table.

	£ million
1998	8,176
1999	9,241
2000	9,384
2001	9,322
2002	8,954
2003	9,266
2004	8,444
2005	9,974
2006	10,343
2007 (provisional)	11,457

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, Office for National Statistics

The table includes only those businesses whose economic activity is classified as 'freight transport by road'. It would exclude, therefore, companies in other economic sectors (e.g. retail) if their main business is not haulage.

Heathrow Airport: Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to support an application for European funding for the proposed Heathrow rail hub. [247157]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's oral statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-76. Subject to Government's decisions following High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd.'s report at the end of the year, work will be taken forward on funding plans for the proposed Heathrow International interchange.

Lorries: Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his assessment is of the merits of the Fresnel lens to improve vision for drivers of *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign heavy goods vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [247089]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Fresnel Lenses provide a useful short-term solution to the problem of the blind-spot adjacent to some HGV cabs. When properly fitted a Fresnel Lens provides drivers of foreign HGVs good vision into the adjacent carriageway whilst overtaking; the lens can also offer improved vision to the nearside for UK drivers.

We are currently completing a study considering the safety aspects of a range of supplementary devices on large goods vehicles, including the Fresnel Lens. We will be using the results of this work to support our proposal to amend the relevant international vehicle construction regulations to reduce these blindspots. In the meantime the Department for Transport is continuing to hand out Fresnel Lenses free of charge to left-hand-drive vehicles arriving at UK ports.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the motor insurance industry on the costs of hire cars during periods when accident insurance disputes and repairs are taking place. [247725]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no discussions. Any such costs would be a matter between insurers and their policyholders.

Motorways: Accidents

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents resulting in death or serious injury have occurred on the hard shoulder of motorways in England in each of the last five years. [248851]

Paul Clark: Hard shoulder accidents are those defined as involving a vehicle on, entering or leaving a hard shoulder or lay-by on a motorway.

There were 160 accidents resulting in death or serious injury that have occurred on the hard shoulder of motorways in England in the last five years detailed as follows.

	Accident severity	
	Fatal	*Serious*
2003	11	23
2004	3	27
2005	12	28
2006	9	16
2007	10	21
Total	45	115

Network Rail: Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will encourage Network Rail to respond to requests for information held as if they were subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [249220]

Paul Clark: Network Rail is an independent company. It is not covered by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 because it is not part of the public sector.

Overseas Lorries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the maximum charge is per day for a foreign haulage vehicle to enter the UK. [247431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government do not charge foreign haulage vehicles to enter the UK.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign vehicles arrived in the UK each *(a)* day, *(b)* week and *(c)* month of the last two years. [247432]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport does not collect information on the total numbers of foreign vehicles entering the United Kingdom. However quarterly figures are published on the number of road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe and these are broken down by whether the vehicles are registered in the UK or not. These figures include vehicles travelling by ferry and through the Channel tunnel and exclude traffic across the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic. The web link to the latest figures is:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/secroadweur/roroq32008

The following table gives the data for the last two years and excludes unaccompanied trailers.

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe

Thousands of vehicles

	Quarter	*UK registered*	*Foreign registered*	*Unknown*
2006	Q4	100	417	2
2007	Q1	101	421	2
	Q2	103	427	3
	Q3	101	426	1
	Q4	99	444	3
2008	Q1[1]	98	430	2
	Q2[1]	105	436	1
	Q3[1]	101	408	1

[1] Provisional

Railways: Fares

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent increase in rail fares has been announced by each train operating company. [247081]

Paul Clark: The Association of Train Operating Companies issued a press release citing the average fares rises for January 2009. This was published in November 2008 and is available from their website:

www.atoc.org

Railways: Timetables

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to encourage Network Rail to release to the hon. Member for Lewes the information he has requested from the company in respect of trains arriving at their scheduled destination at least one minute after the scheduled arrival time but within the timescale that allows them to be classified as on time. [249219]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the information his Department holds on very seriously delayed and cancelled trains in the last 12 month period for which figures are available, broken down by train operating company. [249310]

Paul Clark: The latest period for which cancellation figures are available for England and Wales is 9 December 2007 to 6 December 2008. The number of franchised passenger trains cancelled for their whole journey is given by train operating company in the following table:

Train operating company	*Number of cancellations*
Arriva Trains Wales	1,213
c2c	1,193
Chiltern	604
First Capital Connect	4,060

Train operating company	Number of cancellations
First Great Western	4,699
National Express East Coast	644
Merseyrail	1,799
Northern Rail	6,284
National Express East Anglia	6,975
Southeastern	4,878
Southern	5,722
Stagecoach South West Trains	4,017
TransPennine Express	1,082
Virgin Trains	1,266
Crosscountry	1,151
East Midlands Trains	1,630
London Overground	1,215
London Midland	6,174
Total	54,675

The total number of trains cancelled represents 0.9 per cent. of those scheduled to operate over the period in question. This is a reduction on the equivalent period the previous year when 1.2 per cent. of scheduled services were cancelled.

The Department for Transport does not have information on "very seriously delayed trains". This is collected and processed by Network Rail. The hon. Member may wish to contact the chief executive of Network Rail at the following address:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
York Way
London
N1 9AG

Roads: Accidents

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal road accidents involved (i) foreign and (ii) UK road hauliers in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [247088]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and percentage of *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal reported personal injury road accidents in 2007 involving at least one (i) foreign and (ii) UK registered heavy goods vehicle (HGV) are given in the table.

	Number of accidents	
	Fatal	Serious
Accidents involving at least one foreign registered HGV	28	101
Accidents involving at least one UK registered HGV	174	1,246
Accidents involving at least one UK or foreign registered HGV	193	1,331
Percentage involving at least one foreign registered HGV	7	8
Percentage involving at least one UK registered HGV	93	94

The percentages do not sum up to 100, because both foreign and UK registered heavy goods vehicle could be involved in the same accident.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many reported deaths as a result of road traffic accidents there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [248828]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities from reported personal injury road accidents in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997 are given in the table:

	Number of fatalities	
	Eastbourne	East Sussex[1]
1997	4	43
1998	2	44
1999	2	48
2000	2	57
2001	4	41
2002	1	50
2003	2	47
2004	7	48
2005	2	58
2006	1	46
2007	3	32

[1] Includes Brighton and Hove UA

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of disabled people who used *(a)* the Severn Bridge and *(b)* the Second Severn Crossing who qualified for exemptions from tolls in the last 12 months; what estimate he has made of the level of exemptions fraudulently claimed in that period; and if he will make a statement. [248523]

Paul Clark: UK and EU Disabled Badge users are exempt from charges on the Severn bridge tolls. In 2008, it is estimated that the number of disabled badge holders passing through *(a)* the Severn bridge was 119,663 and *(b)* the Second Severn Crossing was 329,957.

Severn River Crossing plc who operate the tolls do not keep records of fraudulently claimed disabled badges, however checks on the validity of disabled badges, held by users, are made by toll collectors at toll booths.

Speed Limits

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to ensure that *(a)* 20 miles per hour and *(b)* home zones are enforced. [247676]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A 20 mph zone is required by law to contain traffic calming measures placed at regular intervals to ensure compliance with the speed limit. Additional police enforcement is considered unnecessary.

Designation of a road as a home zone does not introduce any enforceable restrictions. The design of a home zone, and any measures implemented, should aim to achieve low vehicle speeds so that permitted activities can be enjoyed safely. The enforcement of any

complementary restrictions, for example speed limits or parking, is a matter for the relevant authority, which may be the police or the local authority.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been raised in fines *(a)* from each speed camera and *(b)* in total from speed cameras in (i) Essex and (ii) Basildon district in each of the last 10 years; and what funds relating to speed cameras have been made available by his Department to (A) Essex County Council and (B) Basildon District Council in each of the last 10 years. [248486]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information about fine revenue raised by individual cameras is not held by the Department for Transport. The Department only holds information about speed cameras operating under the National Safety Camera programme which ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information for the Basildon district of Essex is not held. Essex joined the Safety Camera Programme on 1 April 2000. Figures from the audit certificates for the Essex Safety Camera Partnership are contained in table A as follows and show the fine revenue from conditional offer of fixed penalties for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then National Safety Camera Programme.

Table A

	£
2000-01	1,864,480
2001-02	3,524,120
2002-03	5,672,220
2003-04	5,137,740
2004-05	4,710,300
2005-06	4,732,860
2006-07	3,917,040

Under the then netting off funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships reclaimed expenditure directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of offences. The amount reclaimed by the Essex partnership in these financial years is set out in table B as follows. The surplus was returned to the Consolidated Fund.

Table B

	£
2000-01	1,864,480
2001-02	3,179,304
2002-03	5,150,286
2003-04	5,037,293
2004-05	4,622,413
2005-06	4,257,190
2006-07	3,739,853

On 1 April 2007 the specific road safety grant replaced the system of funding safety cameras through fine income. Essex received £3,363,428 of this grant in 2007-08 and £3,215,679 in 2008-09.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in fines from speed cameras in *(a)* Bolton and *(b)* Greater Manchester in the last year for which records are available; how much of that income was spent in (i) Bolton and (ii) Greater Manchester; and if he will make a statement. [248684]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport information about speed cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information for the Bolton area is not held. The audit certificate for the Greater Manchester Safety Camera Partnership for 2006-07 shows the fine revenue from fixed penalty tickets for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then National Safety Camera Programme to be £4,054,680. Under the programme funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships re-claimed expenditure directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of offences. The amount re-claimed by the Greater Manchester partnership in 2006-07 was £3,431,191. The surplus was returned to the Treasury Consolidated Fund.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised in fines from speed cameras in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last year for which records are available; how much of that revenue was spent in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [249036]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport only holds information about speed cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information for the Hemel Hempstead area is not held. The audit certificate for the Hertfordshire Safety Camera Partnership for 2006-07 shows the fine revenue from fixed penalty tickets for offences detected by speed and red light cameras operating under the then National Safety Camera Programme to be £2,565,540. Under the programme funding arrangements, safety camera partnerships re-claimed expenditure directly attributed to the prevention, detection and enforcement of offences. The amount re-claimed by the Hertfordshire partnership in 2006-07 was £2,516,862. The surplus was returned to the Treasury Consolidated Fund.

Traffic Lights: Cameras

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport at what locations, on what roads, in *(a)* the Metropolitan Police area of London, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* Hertfordshire where red light cameras are (i) in place and (ii) will be in place within the next 12 months for the purpose of monitoring vehicles for offences other than speeding. [247998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport information about the locations of red light cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme which ended on 31 March 2007. Accurate and up to date information may be held by the London, Essex and Hertfordshire road safety partnerships who are responsible for the operation and placement of red light cameras.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency: Surveys

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has conducted any customer service surveys relating to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency following its reform. [247890]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) are committed to monitoring customer opinions of the service they deliver, which they monitor

through annual customer satisfaction surveys covering the key service delivery areas of testing, enforcement and licensing. This information can be found at:

http://www.vosa.gov.uk/vosacorp/contactus/customerfeedbac/customrsfactionsurveys.htm#P7_549.

Vehicles: Carbon Emissions

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many registered road vehicles of each *(a)* engine size and *(b)* level of carbon dioxide emissions there were in each (i) region and (ii) constituency in each year from 2004 to 2008. [247494]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables providing the requested information for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

National statistics regarding the number of licensed vehicles as at the end of 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published in April 2009.

Vehicles: France

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of French-licensed road vehicles with long-range fuel tanks being used to undertake business solely within the UK. [247120]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Using data made available by Eurostat, the most recent estimates (for 2006) show that French hauliers operating in the UK were responsible for 0.2 billion tonne kilometres of cabotage activity. Information on the amount of fuel carried by these vehicles is not routinely collected.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there are any outstanding requests to his Department for CCTV cameras at interface points in Northern Ireland. [248932]

Paul Goggins: There are currently no outstanding requests for CCTV at Interface points in Northern Ireland.

Crime

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of hate crime were recorded in Northern Ireland in 2008. [248426]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246963]

Mr. Woodward: Information on expert advisers commissioned by my Department and its agencies since 1997 is not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) has 11 Executive and advisory NDPBs which are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner of Public Appointments (OCPA). Declarations of political activity/interest are a customary part of this process.

The NIO also has a number of other public bodies including independent monitoring boards and international bodies. Information regarding appointments to these bodies is not held centrally.

Since 2003, Government have published an annual statement with details of special advisers. The most recent information was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248417]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 199W.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 883W, on departmental vehicles, what types and makes of vehicles were maintained in each year. [243236]

Mr. Woodward: The following types and makes of vehicles were maintained in each of the last five years. These figures exclude the Department's agencies and Executive non-departmental public bodies.

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Leased	n/a	n/a	Renault Kangoo Van	Renault Kangoo Van	Renault Kangoo Van
Leased	Volvo S80	Volvo S80	BMW 5 Series	BMW 5 Series	BMW 5 Series
Leased	n/a	n/a	SEAT Leon	SEAT Leon	SEAT Leon
Leased	n/a	n/a	Ford Transit	Ford Transit	Ford Transit
Leased	4 x Vauxhall Omegas	4 x Vauxhall Omegas	3 x Volvo S80s	3 x Volvo S80s	3 x Volvo S80s
Leased	Ford Mondeo	Ford Mondeo	Ford Mondeo	Ford Mondeo	Ford Mondeo
Owned	Renault Kangoo Van	Renault Kangoo Van	Renault Kangoo Van	Renault Kangoo Van	n/a
Owned	Vauxhall Vectra	Vauxhall Vectra	Vauxhall Vectra	Vauxhall Vectra	n/a
Owned	Vauxhall Van	Vauxhall Van	Vauxhall Van	Vauxhall Van	n/a
Owned	Ford Tractor	Ford Tractor	Ford Tractor	Ford Tractor	Ford Tractor

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Owned	Massey Ferguson Tractor	Massey Ferguson Tractor	Massey Ferguson Tractor	Massey Ferguson Tractor	Massey Ferguson Tractor
Owned	Holland Tractor	Holland Tractor	Holland Tractor	Holland Tractor	Holland Tractor

The type of car chosen reflects a range of factors including fuel efficiency, safety standard and practical usage. Where possible, when a lease is up for renewal, we could consider all options in reducing costs to the Department while maintaining the standard required.

District Policing Partnerships: Expenditure

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of funding district policing partnerships in Northern Ireland was in the year ended March 2008. [248930]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Northern Ireland Policing Board, which is independent of Government. The hon. Gentleman may wish to write to Dr. Debbie Donnelly, acting Chief Executive of the Policing Board.

Inquiries

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Wright Inquiry has informed him of the reasons why the inquiry's former Senior Counsel Derek Batchelor QC vacated his post; and what plans he has to review the circumstances surrounding his departure. [249014]

Mr. Woodward: Instructing Inquiry Counsel is a matter for the Inquiry Chairman. I have no plans to review the circumstances surrounding Mr. Batchelor's departure.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246337]

Mr. Woodward: As part of the recruitment process, staff joining the Northern Ireland Office are subject to character checks and security vetting, which includes examination of criminal records. Consideration is given to each individual case, taking into account the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the Rehabilitation of Offenders Order (NI) 1978. Once this check is completed, the number of staff recruited who are former prisoners is not monitored.

Police Stations: Construction

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the new prison at Magilligan to be completed; and at what cost. [248931]

Paul Goggins: Work is expected to begin on the new prison build at Magilligan in late 2011 or shortly afterwards and to take at least four years to complete. The Northern Ireland Prison Service is currently putting in place the requisite programme management, design and business case services.

The estimated costs are in the order of £200 million inclusive of VAT and 30 per cent. optimism bias.

Police Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the recent maintenance and refurbishment work at Garvagh Police Station, County Londonderry, cost. [248425]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sentenced foreign prisoners were released from prisons in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months for which data is available. [244482]

Paul Goggins: Between 1 December 2007 to 1 December 2008, 178 sentenced foreign national prisoners were released from prisons in Northern Ireland.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Improvement Districts

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 508-09W, on local authorities: business, what additional business rate multiplier is applied in each of the business improvement districts. [246947]

John Healey: There are no additional business rate multipliers applied to each of the business improvement districts (BIDs). Businesses within the BID area agree to pay an additional levy on top of their standard business rate bill.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations her Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247364]

Mr. Khan: A complete list of funding to charities and voluntary organisations could be made available only at a disproportionate cost.

However, I refer the hon. Member to a related question that I answered on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 243-45W.

Community Development: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government through which funding streams her Department plans to contribute towards *(a)* supporting housing, *(b)* countering social exclusion and *(c)* regeneration in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [246368]

John Healey: The following table sets out the funding streams and amounts that the Department plans to contribute towards supporting housing, and regeneration in 2008-09 and 2009-10. Some funding streams for supporting housing, clearly contribute also to regeneration.

A number of the Department's programmes potentially contribute to countering social exclusion, however, it is not possible to quantify the amounts specifically involved.

£ million

Funding Streams	*2008-09— Forecast*	*2009-10— Plan*
Supporting Housing		
National Affordable Housing Programme[1]	2,629.0	3,521.0
Housing Market Renewal Fund[1]	381.0	346.0
Growth Areas[1]	289.0	347.0
Gap Funding[1]	123.0	80.0
Places for Change[1]	33.0	24.0
Coalfields Regeneration Trust	17.7	17.7
Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF)[1,2]	36.7	123.0
Regional Housing Pot	347.3	422.5
Arms Length Management Organisations supported capital expenditure	896.0	809.0
Local Authority Supported Capital Expenditure	272.4	269.2
Housing and Planning Delivery Grant	101.0	160.0
Regeneration		
Safer Stronger Communities	52.0	31.0
Working Neighbourhood Fund	464.0	505.6
New Deal for Communities	249.0	179.0
Thames Gateway[3]	91.8	96.6
Land Development (former English Partnerships) (net capital)[1]	206.0	194.0
Thames Gateway[1,3]	47.4	88.9
Regional Development Agencies	1,554.0	1,491.0

[1] These programmes are now part of the new Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).
[2] Community Infrastructure Fund programme is jointly managed with the Department for Transport.
[3] The figures include both Departmental Expenditure Limits and Annually Managed Expenditure where appropriate.
Note:
Expenditure on the Olympics (2008-09 forecast £256.4 million and 2009-10 plan £766.6 million) potentially supports all three of the objectives listed in the question, but it is not possible to attribute the spend between them.

In addition, the Department is responsible for managing the funds received by the UK from the European Regional Development Fund, which supports regeneration in a number of the English regions.

Council Tax: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make publicly available the location-related datasets for *(a)* the 10,000 localities drawn up by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax valuations and *(b)* the 90,000 sub-locations drawn up by the Valuation Office Agency for business rates valuations as referred to on page 29 of her Department's location strategy. [246385]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Map data held by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) for localities are used, among other things, in the provision of commercial valuation services. Publication of this information would weaken the VOA's competitive position. No map data exist for sub-locations, which are codes used by the VOA to group properties with similar characteristics for non-domestic rating purposes.

Councillors: Arun

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the Audit Commission has requested councillors of Arun Council to provide details of their personal bank accounts. [246374]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated January 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question on what reasons the Audit Commission has requested councillors of Arun Council to provide details of their personal bank accounts has been passed to me for reply.

This matter relates to the data collected for the Audit Commission's data matching exercise, known as the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). The NFI is designed to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud and is one of the ways in which the Audit Commission meets its responsibility of promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public money. We estimate that since it started in 1996 the NFI has helped to detect around £450 million in fraud and overpayments.

The processing of data by the Commission in a data matching exercise is now carried out under powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998, which were enacted in the Serious Crime Act 2007. The Audit Commission does not itself investigate instances of fraud; this is the responsibility of the bodies participating in the NFI and supplying data sets for matching.

Mandatory participants such as local councils, police authorities, probation boards, fire and rescue authorities and NHS bodies are required to submit a number of different dataset types for NFI. One of these datasets is payroll data, that is, all individuals currently being paid a salary/wage/members allowance on a payroll at a particular point in time.

The data sought is limited strictly to those fields that are required for data matching plus any that will assist the investigator in selecting matches where an inconsistency is indicated from the data match that requires further investigation. The fields are set out in a 'data specification'. The bank account and sort code are included on the payroll data specification; however the name in which the bank account is held is not collected so the Audit Commission cannot make a connection to other account holders.

Bank details (bank account number and sort code) are important for the investigation process, but they are not displayed in the reports that NFI participants receive; instead the matching process looks at whether the bank account number and sort code is the

same or different across the sets of data provided for NFI and then converts this information into a flag (Yes or No). It is then the flag that is included in the NFI reports. This intelligence helps investigators prioritise investigative resources on cases where employment income has, for example, potentially been withheld (e.g. in an undeclared bank account). This data is highly significant in the fight against fraud.

The Audit Commission's Head of NFI has met elected members at Arun Council to explain why these fields are collected, referring to a number of case studies that not only involve public sector employees but also elected members who have been guilty of benefit fraud by not declaring allowances.

A copy of this letter will be placed in *Hansard*.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by her Department in each of the last three years; and how much her Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248379]

Mr. Khan: All procurement is undertaken in line with the European Commission's procurement rules and to obtain value for money.

Catering services are provided as part of the Department's Integrated Facilities Management contract. There are a number of third party suppliers used by our caterers and to provide the information requested would be disproportionately costly.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245319]

Mr. Khan: CLG and its Agencies are using the new standard Office of Government Commerce clauses in new contracts that involve the handling of personal data and reviews of documentation on existing contracts are being carried out.

The Department and its Agencies have assessed their delivery chains and have conducted reviews of contractors' adherence to data handling requirements. All contracts are currently assessed as compliant or close to compliance.

In some cases CLG HQ security staff have been or are directly involved in visits to contractors to assess data handling procedures.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy that temporary and permanent employees of her Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248408]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 581W.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by her Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248715]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 343W.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in her Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249135]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 25 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 233-4W, on local authorities: grants, what the grant per capita to each local authority *(a)* was in 2008-09 and *(b)* is expected to be in 2009-10; and what the average grant per capita to (i) district councils, (ii) unitary councils, (iii) county councils, (iv) metropolitan councils and (v) London boroughs (1) was in 2008-09 and (2) is expected to be in 2009-10. [246805]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing this information for 2008-09 budget estimates. The information for 2009-10 budget estimates is not yet available.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many eco-towns she expects to be constructed. [246046]

Margaret Beckett: As set out in the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement, published on 4 November 2008, the eco-towns initiative has been developed with the aim of getting exemplar projects off the ground. I have made clear that I am not committed to a particular number at this stage, but that we will look at bringing forward up to 10 schemes.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information required to be provided in energy performance certificates is not required to be provided under Part L of Building Regulations. [248397]

Margaret Beckett: Part L of the Building Regulations applies only to new buildings. Energy performance

certificates are required for all buildings being marketed. An Energy Performance Certificate additionally provides an A to G rating similar to the label provided with domestic appliances so that the energy efficiency of buildings can be readily compared. An Energy Performance Certificate is also accompanied by a Recommendation Report that lists measures to improve the energy rating.

Fire Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire engines there were in operation in each year since 1997. [247687]

Mr. Khan: Available figures for the number of front-line fire engines in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 is set out as follows.

Fire engines, England as at 31 March

	Number
1997[1]	2,467
1998[1]	2,472
1999[1]	2,466
2000	2,109
2001	2,105
2002	2,124
2003	2,120
2004	2,120
2005	2,110
2006	2,091
2007	2,086
2008	2,075

[1] Figures include reserve fire engines and relate to 1 January

Source:
Annual returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Fire Service personnel there were in each year since 1997. [247686]

Mr. Khan: Available figures for the number of fire service personnel employed in England, for the years 1997 to 2008 is set out as follows.

Fire service personnel in England as at 31 March

	Number
1997[1]	46,433
1998[1]	46,081
1999[1]	46,295
2000	52,185
2001	52,346
2002	52,765
2003	53,061
2004	53,633
2005	53,953
2006	54,261
2007	55,036
2008	55,537

[1] Figures exclude non-uniformed staff

Source:
Animal returns to Communities and Local Government

Fire Services: Taunton

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of maintaining the regional fire control centre in Taunton was in December 2008. [248521]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 240W.

We expect accommodation costs to remain at that level for the immediate future.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the provisions of the EU Working Time Directive on the retained duty system in fire and rescue services in England; and if she will make a statement. [248673]

Mr. Khan: Application of the working time directive, by setting a 48-hour maximum to the working week, would be likely to greatly reduce the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full-time for their primary employer. The UK Government therefore places great importance on retaining its opt-out from the directive, a position that was acknowledged by the European Union Council of Ministers in June when it agreed in the Common Position that it should be retained, and will continue to defend it.

The amendments to the Common Position voted by the European Parliament on 17 December are the latest step in a complex negotiation, the next phase being for the Council of Ministers to consider the amendments, followed by a process of conciliation between both parties, the presidency and the Commission. Officials from my Department will be consulting a range of fire and rescue service stakeholders to ensure that the potential impact is assessed fully; and working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which has the UK lead on the working time directive, to inform the ongoing debate and ensure MEPs and EU member states are briefed appropriately.

Home Information Packs

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revoke the requirement on property vendors to provide home information packs. [247181]

Margaret Beckett: No.

Homes and Communities Agency: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the interim operating budget for the Homes and Communities Agency is in the four month period ending at the end of March 2009. [247489]

Margaret Beckett: In agreement with Her Majesty's Treasury, the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) budgets for 2008-09 have been agreed on merger accounting principles. This means that the HCA is deemed to have

existed since 1 April 2008 and a full 2008-09 budget has been set. For 2008-09, the HCA will receive funding from my Department of £3.9 billion (of this £86 million is for administrative running costs). A budget of £2 billion has been estimated to cover the four month period ending at the end of March 2009.

Housing: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use her Department has made of data held on the *(a)* home condition report and *(b)* energy performance certificate register. [246373]

Margaret Beckett: Data on numbers of HCRs lodged to date has been used to inform policy decisions on condition information in the HIP, including the recent announcement to establish a working group to explore options for making sure that consumers have appropriate information about a property's condition.

The Department has used the data held on the energy performance register to monitor the application of and compliance with the Regulations. The Department is considering further how to make best use of this data in furthering its aims for improving the energy efficiency of buildings and reducing carbon emissions.

Housing: Low Incomes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 507-8W, on housing: low incomes, what type of property attribute or information the field, valuation cloned or not, signifies. [246946]

John Healey: The cloned valuation field indicates whether or not a valuation provided by a landlord in the National Register of Social Housing data for a particular dwelling was produced directly from a survey of that dwelling or by comparison with similar dwellings with a previously determined valuation.

Housing: Prices

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average price of a *(a)* post-1960s detached house and *(b)* post-1960s flat within a block of flats in England was according to records collated by the Valuation Office Agency in each six month period since January 1997. [246377]

John Healey: The VOA does not calculate a national average price for properties but does publish twice yearly in its Property Market Report individual average price estimates of a range of properties.

Copies of the Property Market Report covering the period 1997 to 2008 are available in the House of Commons Library. The Property Market Report from 2001 onwards is also available electronically on the VOA website at:

www.voa.gov.uk/publications.

Jenny Watson

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many days a year Ms Jenny Watson is contracted to work for the Audit Commission; and what remuneration she receives for that work.[1] [246858]

John Healey: Ms Jenny Watson is not a contractor working for the Audit Commission, but holds office as a member of the Audit Commission having been appointed by the Secretary of State. There are no specific requirements of board members as to the time they should devote to work for the Audit Commission but there is an expectation that this will, on average, equate to two days per month during the course of the year. Ms Jenny Watson receives remuneration of £14,146 per annum, which is the amount specified by the Secretary of State for payment to the majority of the Audit Commission board members.

Lloyds TSB

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what meetings the Minister for the South East *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB on security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248754]

(2) what meetings the Minister for the East Midlands *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB regarding security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248755]

(3) what meetings the Minister for the East of England *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB regarding security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248756]

(4) what meetings the Minister for London *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB on security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248757]

(5) what meetings the Minister for the West Midlands *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB on security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248758]

(6) what meetings the Minister for the North West *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB on security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248759]

(7) what meetings the Minister for the North East *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with representatives of Lloyds TSB on security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in that region; [248760]

(8) what meetings the Minister for the South West *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with Lloyds TSB on protection of jobs for Lloyds TSB workers in that region. [248888]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is as follows.

The Minister for the South West met with Sir Victor Blank, Chairman of Lloyds TSB, on 14 January 2009.

The Minister for the West Midlands met with a group made up of business organisations (CBI, Chambers etc.) and regional heads of major banks including Lloyds

1. *[Official Report, 21 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 8MC.]*

TSB on 1 December. The same group is due to meet again on 19 January. These meetings have been arranged as a direct consequence of the economic downturn and have been used to gain a regional picture of how banks are supporting businesses in the region.

The Minister for the North East, held a meeting with representatives of the banking, financial and accounting sectors on 21 November 2008 to discuss and address key concerns in relation to the current economic difficulties. Representatives of Lloyds TSB were invited but did not attend.

The Ministers for the East of England, the South East, London, East Midlands and the North West have not met, and have not been asked to meet, with representatives from Lloyds TSB on the matter of the security of employment of Lloyds TSB employees in the region.

Local Government: Bank Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 511W, on local government: bank services, what estimate has been made of the financial losses to local authorities from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. [246940]

John Healey: According to the liquidators for the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, local authorities held deposits of £77.243 million on the date the bank entered liquidation in January 1992. This was approximately $143 million at the rate of exchange in January 1992.

Dividends have been paid out in US dollars. Fluctuations in the exchange rate between dollars and sterling means that local authorities (and other claimants with funds originally held in sterling) have received almost 97 per cent. of their original balance, if converting their US dollars back into pounds at the rate applicable on the date of the declared dividend. This is higher than the 86.5 per cent. set out in my previous answer, which is the percentage in US dollars.

It is anticipated that there will be a final dividend paid out, but the liquidators are currently unable to confirm when this will become available or what the value will be.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the amount of interest local authorities have foregone on money frozen in Icelandic banks. [247022]

John Healey: Estimates of the amounts of interest local authorities have foregone on money frozen in Icelandic banks are not held centrally.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much money local authorities have deposited in Icelandic banks; [247023]

(2) which local authorities have funds frozen in Icelandic banks. [247024]

John Healey: The Local Government Association has compiled information supplied by individual local authorities that have deposits in Icelandic banks. It has published this information on its website:

www.lga.gov.uk.

In addition, Communities and Local Government is in the process of collecting data on local authorities that had deposits in Icelandic banks at the end of 2008 as part of our routine financial data collection programme. These data will be published once they have been fully validated and quality assured.

Local Government: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what data which her Department used to gather from local authorities is no longer gathered as a result of the adoption of the national indicator set. [246379]

John Healey: The Department has recently published an update to its simplification plan, which is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1094604.pdf

This contains a list of data which the Department has already stopped collecting for local authorities and also sets out other activity under way to reduce the burden of data collection.

Further reductions may be identified as a result of the ongoing review of data collections which was referred to in the answer of 28 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 112W. Departments have until May 2010 to identify and implement reductions which contribute to the cross-Whitehall 30 per cent. target for reduction in data burdens announced on 9 October 2007 as part of the comprehensive spending review.

Local Government: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were employed by local government in England in each year since 1996-97. [246389]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, Minister of State for the Third Sector (Kevin Brennan) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 501W.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a statement on the structure of Suffolk and Norfolk local government. [246690]

John Healey: The Boundary Committee has been requested to provide advice to the Secretary of State no later than 13 February 2009 on proposals for unitary local government in Norfolk and Suffolk. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 provides that where the Secretary of State has requested such advice, she may not make any decision in relation to any proposals received until at least six weeks after the date by which she has specified that advice must be provided.

Non-Domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average non-domestic rates bill in England in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [246380]

John Healey: The average non-domestic rates bill in England is estimated as £10,333 in 2007-08 and £11,357 in 2008-09. It is not yet possible to estimate the average non-domestic rates bill for 2009-10.

The data, which refer to the local lists only, are taken from NNDR returns submitted by billing authorities.

Average non-domestic rates are calculated by dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' lists by the number of hereditaments on local lists as at 31 December of the previous year.

Comparisons across years should be treated with caution as figures will reflect changes in the number and type of hereditaments as well as changes to rateable values and multipliers.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the net revenue from non-domestic rates in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10. [246382]

John Healey: Data on the net revenue from non-domestic rates are available on the Communities and Local Government website.

Outturn data for 2007-08 can be found in the Statistical Release "National non- domestic rates collected by local authorities in England 2007-08" that was published on 17 September 2008 and can be found in table 1 at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr078o.htm

These data are taken from NNDR3 forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

Budget estimate data for 2008-09 can be found in the Statistical Release "National non-domestic rates to be collected by local authorities in England 2008-09" that was published on 8 May 2008 and can be found in table 1 at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr089.htm

These data are taken from NNDR1 forms submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

Details of the estimated revenue from non-domestic rates in 2009-10 was published as part of the 2009-10 Local Government Finance Settlement and can be found at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0910/dacalcs.xls

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cap she plans to impose on the rate at which supplementary business rates are imposed. [246392]

John Healey: The Business Rate Supplements Bill currently before Parliament proposes an upper limit for BRS levied by a local authority in a financial year of 2p per pound of rateable value.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of empty her Department uses for the purposes of determining empty property exemptions for business rates. [246376]

John Healey: The definition used by Communities and Local Government and English local authorities to determine empty property exemptions for business rates can be found in the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property)(England) Regulations 2008. No. 386.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of empty properties have a rateable value of less than £15,000. [246387]

John Healey: The Government do not hold this information. However VOA records show that 70 per cent. of all properties are under the £15,000 threshold and if empty will be exempt.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the financial value of the threshold level of rate relief in London for small firms in relation to *(a)* small business rate relief, *(b)* exemption from empty property business rates and *(c)* exemption from supplementary business rates will be in 2009-10. [246386]

John Healey: The rateable value thresholds for rate relief in London are:

In regard to Small Business Rate Relief in London, there are three tiers to the current system; (i) eligible businesses occupying a property with a rateable value of less than £5,000 receive a reduction of 50 per cent. in their rates liability, (ii) eligible businesses occupying a property with a rateable value between £5,000 and £10,000 are entitled to relief on a sliding scale—for every £100 increase in rateable value, relief decreases by 1 per cent. (iii) eligible businesses occupying a property with a rateable value between £10,000 and £21,500 have their liability calculated with the small business multiplier and do not pay the supplement to fund the scheme.

In regard to empty property rates the current exemption threshold of a rateable value of £2,200 is to be increased to £15,000 for the financial year 2009-10.

As set out in clause 27(i) of the Business Rates Supplement Bill currently before Parliament, no business rates supplement may be levied before 1 April 2010.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 351W, on non-domestic rates: ports, what the aggregate rateable value in respect of each port in England and Wales affected by the change in valuation was *(a)* before and *(b)* after the change. [245932]

John Healey: The Financial Secretary to the Treasury and I submitted a memorandum to the Treasury Select Committee on 5 November 2008 which included a table showing the aggregate changes in rateable values in ports from the review. I have placed this in the Library. It represents the most up to date complete table currently available.

A revised table will be available at the end of January 2009 once the rating lists for the five remaining ports have been formally amended, in the light of any representations received in response to the notifications sent out by the respective valuation officers by 28 November.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether small businesses will be automatically exempted from supplementary business rates. [246375]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 350W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what business rate multiplier she plans to use for *(a)* small firms and *(b)* medium and large firms in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [246378]

John Healey: The current small business rate multiplier for 2008-09 is set at 0.458 (45.8 pence in the pound) and will rise to 0.481 (48.1 pence) for 2009-10.

The non-domestic multiplier (for larger businesses) is currently 0.462 (46.2 pence) for 2008-09 and will rise to 0.485 (48.5 pence) in 2009-10.

Opencast Mining: Planning Permission

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for open cast coal mine developments were referred to the Secretary of State in each year since 1990, broken down by constituency of location. [247448]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning applications for opencast coal developments that have been referred to the Secretary of State since 2001 are:

Application	*Date of referral*	*Constituency*
Mansfield Conical Tip	April 2001	Mansfield
Eldon Deep Extension	February 2002	Bishop Auckland
Delhi Opencast Coal Site	June 2007	Hexham
Land adjacent to Longhirst Lane	October 2008	Wansbeck

Data on planning applications referred between 1990 and 2001 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many applications for open cast coal mine developments were successful in each year since 1990; and in which constituency each was located. [247449]

Mr. Iain Wright: Responsibility for determination of planning applications lies in the first instance with the appropriate mineral planning authority for the area concerned. Information on the number of planning applications for open cast coal mine developments since 1990 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Development Agencies

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for the designation of regional development agencies as regional planning bodies. [246390]

John Healey: Under the provisions set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, there would be no regional planning bodies. Regional development agencies and local authority leaders' boards would be jointly responsible for producing and revising regional strategies.

Valuation: Information and Communications Technology

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and *(b)* agents working on behalf of the VOA have spent on the automated valuation model since September 2005. [246391]

John Healey: Since September 2005 approximately £6.2 million has been spent by *(a)* the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to secure the investment in its automated valuation model (AVM).

This includes payments made to the VOA's IT supplier, Capgemini, a proportion of which covers their expenditure with third party IT suppliers (under separate contracts). As the VOA is not party to these separate contracts, it is not possible to provide the amount spent by *(b)* agents working on their behalf. Staffing costs associated with developing and maintaining the AVM are not recorded separately.

Vital Villages Programme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on rural communities of the Vital Villages programme. [248184]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA sponsored the Countryside Agency, now partly superseded by the Commission for Rural Communities. The Countryside Agency ran the Vital Villages programme from 2001 until 2004. In 2005, they published 'Judging the success of the Vital Villages grants programme'. It concluded that it had been a successful scheme which had achieved its aims and brought a wide range of benefits to people in rural communities. Consequently, the lessons learnt from this programme are now being mainstreamed by Government and the third sector at the central, regional and local levels.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Elite Athlete Funding

7. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has for elite athlete funding in the next three years. [248268]

Andy Burnham: In December, UK Sport announced a total of £292 million of funding for 19 Olympic and 15 Paralympic sports covering the next four financial years up to and including the London Games.

Allocations to the remaining eight Olympic and four Paralympic sports will be announced by UK Sport at the end of this month.

We remain committed to realising a further £50 million from the private sector to support this unprecedented public sector investment.

Tote

8. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with European Commission officials on transferring the Tote to the horseracing industry; and if he will make a statement. [248269]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have had no recent discussions with the European Commission about transferring the Tote to the horseracing industry.

Digital Switchover: South Wales

9. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on ensuring that audio description is available via a single button on set-top boxes in advance of digital switchover in South Wales. [248270]

Andy Burnham: Revised core receiver requirements for equipment provided as part of the Digital Switchover Help Scheme were published on 11 November 2008. One button access to audio description from the remote control handset is now a mandatory requirement for the most costs effective option offered under the scheme.

Free Theatre

10. **Dr. Starkey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress his Department has made on its programme for free theatre. [248271]

Andy Burnham: Arts Council England announced on 17 December that approximately 618,000 free theatre tickets for under 26-year-olds would be available between February 2009 and March 2011. Over 200 venues will be involved in the scheme, which is due to officially launch on 16 February. My Department is supporting this initiative which will help theatres fill their seats while building the audience of the future.

19. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on his free theatre policies; and if he will make a statement. [248280]

Barbara Follett: Arts Council England announced on 17 December that approximately 618 000 free theatre tickets for under 26-year-olds would be available between February 2009 and March 2011. Over 200 venues will be involved in the scheme, which is due to officially launch on 16 February. My Department is supporting this initiative which will help theatres fill their seats while building the audience of the future.

Sport Participation

11. **Mrs. Cryer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people participated in regular sport in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007. [248272]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS's Taking Part survey measured participation in regular Sport and Active Recreation as part of PSA3.

21.5 per cent. of the population participated for 30 minutes, at least three times a week in 2007, rising to 22.5 per cent. in 2008.

Find Your Talent Initiative

12. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the find your talent initiative; and if he will make a statement. [248273]

Barbara Follett: Work in the 10 Find Your Talent pathfinder areas was launched in September 2008. Pathfinder areas are now all embarked on a three year programme to trial the best ways to deliver five hours high quality cultural experience to every child in their area.

Broadcasting: Language Standards

13. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with representatives of broadcasting companies on language standards in broadcasting. [248274]

Andy Burnham: I regularly meet representatives of broadcasting companies to discuss a range of issues.

Content standards are a matter for broadcasters and regulators working within the overall framework set by the Communications Act 2003 and the BBC Charter and Agreement.

Sports Clubs: Water Rates

14. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on the impact on sports clubs of changes in the method of calculation of water rates. [248275]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department is aware of this issue and I will—along with my hon. Friend the Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment—be seeking a meeting with Ofwat to establish what options are available to ensure community sports clubs are not disproportionately affected by these charges.

I have also asked Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation to see whether there is any systematic help they can provide to ensure community sports clubs' water charges have been calculated correctly.

Sporting Talent

15. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the opportunities for the development of young sporting talent; and if he will make a statement. [248276]

Andy Burnham: We are passionate about developing our young talented sports people including those with disabilities. The Government support Sport England, the Youth Sport Trust and UK Sport who work with schools, clubs and national governing bodies to identify, support and provide guidance to talented young athletes. £2.3 million per year through the Gifted and Talented programme and £3 million per year through the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme will provide a strong structure to help young people fulfil their potential and progress as far as possible along their chosen sporting pathway.

Stadiums: South West

16. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the provision of stadiums for major events in the south-west. [248277]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government study 'Hosting the World Cup, published in February 2007, contains an assessment of the provision of football stadiums across England.

I have made no further assessment of stadiums for major events.

Sport in Schools

17. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he next expects to meet local authorities to discuss measures to encourage sport in schools. [248278]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I regularly visit local authorities to see their excellent work for children and young people's PE and sport.

Local authorities have an important role to play in delivering the PE and Sport Strategy for Young People and free swimming for under 16s. They and primary care trusts, working through Children's Trusts, have the lead in planning, resourcing and co-ordinating services for children and young people. Therefore they will provide close support to school and county sport partnerships in schemes such as the Sport Unlimited Workstrand within the strategy.

Officials and our delivery partners will continue to work closely with local government to increase sporting opportunities for children and young people.

Betting Shops: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 415W, on betting shops, how many premises licence applications for betting shops have been refused by local authorities on the grounds of proximity in relation to existing betting shops in the locality in the last 12 months. [248847]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Local authorities are not permitted to refuse applications for premises licences on the grounds of proximity in relation to existing betting shops in the locality. They must base their decisions on the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, and their own three year licensing policy statement.

Broadband Stakeholders Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* administrative and *(b)* financial support his Department has provided for the Broadband Stakeholders Group since it was established. [247421]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not provided any administrative or financial support for the Broadband Stakeholders Group, but DCMS officials maintain close working relations with the group and attend some of the group's meetings.

Convergence Think Tank: Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff have provided support to the Convergence Think Tank. [248921]

Andy Burnham: Five members of the Department's staff worked full-time on the Convergence Think Tank project and one half-time. Additional support was provided by other officials prior to the commencement of the project and subsequently by the Department's corporate services on an ad hoc basis, but was not recorded separately.

Cricket: Schools

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what undertakings his Department gave to the England and Wales Cricket Board on Chance to Shine funding during the formation of the National Sports Foundation; and what steps his Department has taken to fulfil these undertakings as part of the new Sport England Strategy. [246121]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Sport England invested £2 million in the Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme between November 2005 and March 2007. The formation of the National Sports Foundation led to an agreement that 'Chance to Shine' would receive investment of £2.5 million for the 2007-08 financial year. The National Sports Foundation has now been wound-down and its funds integrated with the new Whole Sport Plans. As a result 'Chance to Shine' will be funded through the ECB's Whole Sport Plan. The details of this plan, like the plans of all national governing bodies, are still under discussion and will be finalised in due course.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248388]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has a contract with an external catering company who procure food on our behalf.

The breakdown of the suppliers is as follows:

(a) Food

Supplier	2008	2007	£ 2006
3663 Confectionery	5,888	5,594	4,122
Daily Fish	814	773	570
Delice de France	2,545	2,417	1,781
Enterprise Foods Ltd.	8,282	7,867	5,797
3663 Frozen	3,508	3,332	2,455
3663 Grocery	3,690	3,505	2,583
9CB Foodservice Ltd.	15,458	14,685	10,821
Nigel Fredericks	9,093	8,640	6,366
M&J Seafoods	3,316	3,150	2,321
Spring Fine Food Service Ltd.	5,837	5,545	4,086
Town and Country	1,279	1,215	896

(b) Drinks

Supplier	2008	2007	£ 2006
Belu Water	4,409	4,189	3,087
Coca Cola Enterprises Ltd.	3,434	3,262	2,403
Majestic Wine	917	871	642
First Choice Coffee	13,053	12,400	9,137
West Horsley Dairy Company	10,200	9,690	7,140

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent (ref CMS/10831S/asg). [248916]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I replied to the letter of 5 November from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on 15 December 2008. I will arrange for a copy to be sent.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 549W, on the Departmental internet, what the initial costing of including return path functionality in digital set-top boxes made by the technical experts on his Department's Emerging Technology Group was; and if he will make a statement. [247357]

Andy Burnham: The technical experts' estimate was that introducing return path functionality to a set-top box to provide internet connectivity would add an additional £40-£80 to the cost per box. The Emerging Technologies Group is chaired by an official from my Department: technical expertise is provided by members representing the BBC, Digital UK and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Active Places website has cost his Department in each year since the site's creation. [247566]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the Active Places website has cost the following amounts each year since its creation.

	Cost (£ million)
2004-05	1.98
2005-06	0.877
2006-07	1.1
2007-08	1.0
2008-09 (estimate)	0.894

Departmental Plants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 138W, on departmental plants, how much his Department has spent on *(a)* pot plants since March 2008 and *(b)* flowers in each of the last five years. [247359]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has spent the following amounts on:

(a) Pot Plants

April 2008 to December 2008: £10,110.01

(b) Flowers

April 2006 to March 2007: £652.05

April 2007 to March 2008: £665.76

April 2008 to December 2008: £499.32

Information prior to 2006 is not available.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agency for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243449]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* Until October 2008, the Department was required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30-day payment target and does not therefore currently publish information about payment within 10 days. However, following the Prime Minister's commitment

of 8 October that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days, we will additionally report 10-day payment performance from the period January to March 2009.

The Department does not publish information about size of suppliers. We do not discriminate by size because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247914]

Barbara Follett: The total expenditure on public surveys for each of the last three year is:

	£
2006-07	24,400
2007-08	0
2008-09	10,000

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what will happen to the transmitter at Winter Hill when the digital switchover is complete. [247019]

Andy Burnham: The Winter Hill site and mast will continue to be used after switchover with new transmitter equipment installed to broadcast the digital services.

Digital Broadcasting: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department is providing for support and advice under the digital switchover help scheme in 2008-09. [248347]

Andy Burnham: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme is entirely funded by the TV licence fee. As detailed within the Scheme Agreement, I have agreed with the BBC Trust that the £603 million estimated cost of the scheme will be divided into annual amounts to be set aside from the licence fee for the purpose of funding the scheme. In nominal terms the provision made for 2008-09 is £67.6 million.

Digital Broadcasting: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated cost of digital switchover will be in the North West. [247021]

Andy Burnham: The bulk of expenditure by Digital UK on digital switchover is on advertising and communications to members of the public.

I therefore refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 324W. Copies of the letter are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Radio Working Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* total and *(b)* staffing cost to his Department has been of the Digital Radio Working Group since its establishment. [247423]

Andy Burnham: *(a)* The total costs to the Department of the Digital Radio Working Group (excluding staffing costs) have been approximately £29,700.

(b) The group was supported by the equivalent of 1.4 full-time DCMS staff. Using capitation rates[1] this equates to approximately £68,400.

[1]Capitation rates cover average pay, national insurance and pension contribution costs, by grade, incurred by the Department, including taking account of a pay rise from 1 August 2008.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date the Digital Radio Working Group was set up; on what date it published its interim report; and when he expects it to publish its final report. [247424]

Andy Burnham: The Digital Radio Working Group was established in November 2007. The group's interim report was published on 23 June 2008, and the final report was published on 19 December 2008. Both reports are available on my Department's website.

Gambling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government has taken to support businesses within the gambling industry. [248316]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have taken a number of recent steps to support businesses within the gambling industry. We have proposed to increase from four to eight the number of category B3 gaming machines which bingo clubs may offer. We have also proposed to double the maximum proceeds for individual society lottery draws to £4 million (which would allow for a £400,000 maximum prize per draw). In addition, the Government announced on 22 December 2008 its revised proposals in respect of increased stakes and prizes for certain category C and D gaming machines.

We have introduced all of the above measures in response to the difficult trading conditions the industry has been experiencing. In doing so, we have balanced the needs of the gambling industry with the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005, in particular the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will announce decisions following the consultation on the Gambling Act (Variations of Monetary Limits for Gaming Machines) Order 2008. [248699]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The consultation on the Gambling Act (Variations of Monetary Limits for Gaming Machines) Order 2008 closes on 19 January 2009. A decision will be announced shortly after this date.

Gambling: Advertising

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many gambling operators have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* penalised for irresponsible advertising under the gambling advertising codes introduced in September 2007. [248321]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) have advised that since 1 September 2007 they have received 334 complaints about 274 advertisements for betting and gaming products and services.

Of these, the ASA considered there were grounds to formally or informally investigate 43 complaints about 36 advertisements. Of those, 27 complaints about 25 advertisements were upheld or upheld in part.

An ASA compliance survey of gambling advertisements across media in 2007, after the tightened gambling codes came into effect to coincide with the Gambling Act 2005, revealed a 99 per cent. compliance rate with the Advertising Codes.

ICT: Reviews

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff have provided support for the Digital Britain Review. [248892]

Andy Burnham: To date, seven members of the Department's staff have been working full-time on the Digital Britain project, and three part-time. Additional support has been provided on an ad hoc basis by other policy officials and by the Department's corporate services, but has not been recorded separately.

Legacy Trust

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of funding dispersed by the Legacy Trust to date has been spent on *(a)* cultural and *(b)* sporting projects. [247573]

Andy Burnham: The Legacy Trust UK was established with a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom.

While the Legacy Trust UK (LTUK) has made a number of decisions regarding the allocation of their funding, those projects are a long way from completion and it is not possible to give an accurate breakdown of the activities provided at this stage. However, the Trust aim for approximately 70 per cent. of its endowment to be spent on cultural activities, with the remaining 30 per cent. on sports projects.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projects have received funding from the Legacy Trust of more than £100,000 to date. [247574]

Andy Burnham: The Legacy Trust UK was established with a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund, the Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities for all, which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the United Kingdom.

While the Legacy Trust UK (LTUK) has made a number of decisions regarding the allocation of their funding, to date, only the following grants (of above £100,000) have been made to projects:

National Programmes

UK School Games 2008: £2.3 million

LTUK's other three national programmes are currently under development. Announcements on these programmes will be made throughout 2009.

Nations and Regions Programmes

East Midlands: £140,000

While the LTUK has made decisions on eight of the 12 Nations and Regions grants, totalling over £16 million, these projects are, on the whole, still in a development phase and project expenditure has been minimal. LTUK are waiting for grant recipients to draw down the funds against their four-year business plans.

Members: Correspondence

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he will reply to the hon. Member for Luton South's letter of 10 July 2008 about Mr R. Fisk of Luton. [247675]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member. The Department has no record of receiving the original correspondence. A duplicate copy was requested and received on 17 October 2008. I responded on 13 January 2009.

Playing Fields: Planning Permission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 421W, on playing fields, how many planning applications have been approved affecting sites which either were too small or of the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch as currently defined in each year since 2004-05. [245462]

Andy Burnham: Sport England has advised that, for the years in which figures are currently available, the following number of applications were approved where the land affected was either too small or the wrong shape to accommodate a playing pitch:

	Number of approved applications
2004-05	245
2005-06	314

Sport England does not hold any figures on applications where the playing field area may contain only a pitch less than 0.4 ha, as these would not be referred to them under the statutory instrument.

Public Libraries

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of households in each local authority area lived within *(a)* one mile and *(b)* two miles of a static library in each of the last three years. [247576]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in Public Library Statistics. The House of Commons Library holds copies for the period in question.

Public Service Agreement

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his final assessment of progress made towards meeting his Department's public service agreement performance targets since the Spending Review in 2004. [247588]

Andy Burnham: The latest assessment of progress made towards meeting my Department's outstanding public service agreement performance targets from the Spending Review 2004 was published in December 2008 in my Department's Autumn Performance Report 2008, which can be found at the following website address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5686.aspx

and in the Libraries of both Houses.

Sport England: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what undertakings have been made to non-Olympic sports in respect of their Sport England funding over the period 2008 to 2012. [246123]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Sport England recently announced its National Governing Body funding decisions for 2009-13. Awards have been made to 46 national governing bodies, with a total in excess of £155 million being made available to 15 non-Olympic sports as follows:

	£
Angling	1,561,906
Baseball and Softball	2,700,000
Bowls	756,750
Cricket	37,776,725
Golf	12,851,500
Lacrosse	2,210,993
Mountaineering	1,287,850
Movement and Dance	741,552
Netball	17,300,000
Orienteering	2,275,000
Rounders	2,200,000
Rugby League	29,408,341
Rugby Union	30,724,908
Squash	12,600,000
Waterskiing	951,373

Sport England will also operate other funding streams to replace the existing Community Investment Fund and support the creation of a world leading community sports system. These will be open to all recognised national governing bodies and other sports organisations, including clubs, and will include 'themed' funding rounds, a small grants scheme, a facilities fund and an innovation fund.

Sports Legacy Board

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the first meeting of the Sports Legacy Board will take place. [247355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are currently finalising the date of the first meeting and anticipate that it will be held in the spring.

Television: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households are still operating on analogue television in the North West. [247020]

Andy Burnham: The Digital UK and Ofcom Switchover Tracker Survey for the Third Quarter of 2008 estimates that approximately 330,000 households in the Granada region are watching analogue television on their primary TV set.

Tourism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of progress made towards reaching his Department's target to improve productivity in the tourism, creative and leisure industries. [247587]

Andy Burnham: The most recent assessment of progress against the target to improve productivity in the tourism, creative and leisure industries was published in December 2008 in my Department's Autumn Performance Report 2008, which can be found at the following website address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5686.aspx

and in the Libraries of both Houses.

In summary, there has been a slight downturn in the productivity trend for the creative industries. For the leisure industries, there has been some reasonable productivity growth; however, this is counteracted by decreases in the productivity of travel agencies/tour operators caused by big reductions in employment.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Government has provided directly to VisitBritain in each of the last three years. [247206]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the grant in aid final outturn figures for VisitBritain in each of the last three years. These figures are published in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Resource Accounts which are audited by the NAO.

Visit Britain grant in aid

	Outturn (£000)
2005-06	48,900
2006-07	49,900
2007-08	50,650

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which organisation has managed each project funded by his Department in Helmand province since 2005; what the budget of each was; how much has been spent in each case; what monitoring, impact assessments and evaluations have been undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [245773]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) began its programme of bilateral support to Helmand in 2006, committing to spend £30 million in the province from 2006-07 to 2008-09. DFID spent £23.7 million from 2006-07 to 2007-08, and will spend around £23 million in 2008-09, meaning a spend of around £46 million over the three-year period. Itemised details of spend are listed. For security reasons, a number of our implementing partners prefer to keep a discreet profile and therefore we maintain confidentiality about their identities.

The primary channel for DFID support is the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). The programme is implemented by the government of Afghanistan (both the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the Ministry for Agriculture Irrigation and Livestock). £14.8 million has so far been disbursed through this programme in 2006-08. The government of Afghanistan is responsible for the allocation of funds to, and evaluation of, the hundreds of individual projects under HARDP. Once complete, each phase of HARDP is subjected to a formal DFID Project Completion Report. An independent review published in September 2008 concluded that the programme's accomplishments had been significant.

DFID has been funding UN Habitat since early 2007 to undertake community and municipal development work in central Lashkar Gah. UN Habitat works directly with the government of Afghanistan's municipal authority and with locally-selected Community Development Councils: a two-year programme worth £2.4 million is being implemented until 2010, including the creation of community development councils and projects such as drainage ditches, gravelled roads and waste disposal.

Monitoring and evaluating activity in Helmand brings particular challenges. Many parts of the province remain insecure, and access by international staff to many areas is impossible. DFID has consequently developed a range of strategies to ensure programmes are properly monitored. These include working closely with military colleagues to access insecure areas, and identifying implementing partners from local communities, who can travel relatively freely within the regions where they live. We are in the process of contracting a third-party organisation to provide independent evaluation of our work and its impact.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the outcomes of each project undertaken by his Department in the areas of development and reconstruction in Helmand province were in each of the last three years. [245779]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) will spend around £46 million in Helmand over the three-year period 2006-09. Mainly channelled through the government of Afghanistan, this has supported many hundreds of individual projects at community level and helped the government of Afghanistan to establish a presence and a capability in the province. Given the number of projects involved, we assess our impact through broader programme outcomes.

Our support has resulted in the construction of 2,451 wells, benefiting over 400,000 people. Irrigation has been restored to 13,800 hectares of land, 5,800 hectares have been newly irrigated and 59 km of road completed. These government of Afghanistan-led programmes have delivered cleaner water and better sanitation for 1,500 families in Lashkar Gah. DFID's £1.5 million commitment to the Governor of Helmand's wheat seed distribution programme this year helped the government to offer over 30,000 families a viable alternative to poppy cultivation.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which sectors in Afghanistan are covered by his Department's Helmand road map; how much is to be spent on the road map; how its effectiveness will be measured; and if he will make a statement. [245781]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Helmand Road Map contains eight strands of activity: politics and reconciliation; security; governance; rule of law; economic development; counter narcotics; strategic communications; and district reconstruction and development.

£28 million has been made available from the tri-Departmental Stabilisation Aid Fund in 2008-09 to support the Helmand Road Map. DFID has made available an additional £23 million to be spent in the province in 2008-09.

An internal review of progress towards meeting the conditions required to stabilise Helmand is made every six months, drawing in views from the Civil Military Mission and Task Force Helmand. The Mission is seeking to improve the quality of the measures of effect used to identify trends in progress against the Road Map, using a combination of hard data (for example, the use of basic state functions such as health and education services), proxy indicators (for example, the numbers of vehicles moving on specific roads as an indicator of improved security), polling data, and assessments of progress in building the capability of Afghan institutions.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's objectives in Helmand province are for the next two years. [245782]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Afghanistan country plan for 2009-13 is currently under development. All activity will be guided by the UK strategy for Afghanistan announced by the Prime Minister in December 2007. In Helmand, DFID is committed to playing a full part in the UK effort set out in the Helmand Roadmap. DFID's role in the province is to support stabilisation, to lay the foundations for long-term development and to influence other donors to focus their work in the province. Our goal is to manage the eventual transition of support in Helmand from short-term stabilisation funding to more sustainable, long-term provision of development assistance in line with the priorities of the government of Afghanistan.

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the UK has provided to *(a)* Zimbabwe and *(b)* sub-Saharan Africa in each of the last five years; what he expects UK's aid commitment to his region to be in each of the next three years; what assessment he has made of the work undertaken by (i) the UK and (ii) the international community to further the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and if he will make a statement. [246808]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Department for International Development (DFID) assistance to Zimbabwe and the sub-Saharan Africa over the last five and next three years is as follows:

£ million

Financial year	Total aid to sub-Saharan Africa	Aid to Zimbabwe	Comments
2003-04	677.942	36.006	—
2004-05	827.566	27.355	—
2005-06	1,099.875	35.376	—
2006-07	1,186.467	34.072	—
2007-08	1,301.764	43.266	—
2008-09	1,278.14	44.00	Forecast expenditure
2009-10	1,500.00	40.00	Planned expenditure
2010-11	1,750.00	40.00	Planned expenditure

No allocations have yet been set for 2011-12 onwards, as this falls into the next comprehensive spending review period. Our assistance to Zimbabwe in future years may be significantly revised in the event of positive political developments there.

In September 2002, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), welcoming NEPAD as an African Union led, owned and managed initiative. It recognised that primary responsibility for implementation rested with the African Governments and peoples and affirmed that international support for implementation was essential.

The UK Government are playing their part in providing international support to NEPAD programmes. We have committed funds to support the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), which aims to improve food security, nutrition and incomes. We support the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). This support, along with funds from other donor countries, is managed by the UN Development Programme and used to support the APRM Secretariat. We also provide support to NEPAD's Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, which helps African countries, Regional Economic Communities and related institutions mobilise resources for the preparation of regional infrastructure projects and programmes.

In July 2003, the Africa Union (AU) adopted a declaration by which NEPAD was to be fully integrated into the structures and processes of the AU. This should help to streamline the African regional institutional architecture. The UK Government are working with others to assist the AU, including through funding a programme to improve systems and communications at the AU Commission. A stronger AU could play a major role in delivering the African led development envisaged by NEPAD.

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission: Equality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnicity were appointed to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the last five years. [246914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A gender breakdown of appointments to the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission over the last five years is given as follows:

	Male appointees	Female appointees	Total ethnic minority appointees	Total appointees
2004	2	1	0	3
2005	—	—	—	[1] —
2006	3	1	0	4
2007	—	—	—	[1] —
2008	3	3	1	6

[1] None.

Departmental Buildings

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recommendations have been made by the Carbon Trust to his Department following energy audits conducted on its buildings; and what progress has been made on implementing these recommendations. [246916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Reports were commissioned via the Carbon Trust on our two UK offices. The main recommendations made, and the actions taken, are as follows:

Improved control over our Building Management Systems—this has been achieved in both offices by upgrading the software on the computer systems which operate the plant, and which in turn allow us to monitor and adjust more effectively the performance of heating and cooling equipment.

Reduce incoming voltage—this has been achieved in our London office through investment in dedicated equipment in February 2008 which has reduced our electricity consumption in the building by 15 per cent.. Similar equipment is due to be installed in our East Kilbride office in February 2009.

Improved control over lighting—all lighting in both offices is now of modern energy efficient design, and we have improved the control over movement sensors and lighting controls to eliminate

unnecessary usage. We have upgraded the lighting in the plant level of our London Headquarters which in itself is now saving approximately 1 per cent. of the electricity use in the building.

Turning off electrical appliances when not in use—we carry out awareness campaigns among staff, and unused PCs are turned off at weekends by security staff.

Improved space utilisation—we have reduced the amount of space occupied by staff since the reports were produced, and are currently planning for a further reduction.

As a result of these and other changes made, our energy consumption decreased by 5 per cent. in 2007-08 over the previous year, and we are currently on track to achieve a larger reduction this financial year. We are also continuing to work with Carbon Trust to assess the feasibility of other specific energy efficiency measures including a wind turbine, biomass boiler and microgeneration.

Departmental Committees

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to his Department's Annual Report 2008, chapter 10, point 10.4, how many times each committee met during 2006-07; and what expenses were incurred in holding those meetings. [246920]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Four of the five sub-committees outlined in the 2008 Departmental annual report were active during the period 2006-07. The Investment Committee was under development in late 2007 and had its inaugural meeting on 29 February 2008. Details of the number of meetings held and the expenses incurred are outlined in the following table:

Committee	*Number of meetings in 2006-07*	*Expenses incurred (£)*
Development Committee	5	103.16
Audit Committee	5	4,060.50
Investment Committee	0	0
Human Resource and Strategy Committee	6	0
Senior Civil Service Management and Pay Committee	14	0

The higher level of expense incurred by the Audit Committee is due to work undertaken by the non-executive directors above and beyond their pro bono contributions.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times the departmental-wide working group established to provide comments and contribute to organisational directions for the Corporate Plan has met; who chairs the group; and what the names and positions are of each member of the group. [246923]

Mr. Michael Foster: Instead of a corporate plan, the Department for International Development (DFID) launched a change programme 'Making it Happen' in April 2008. The programme was shaped by meetings of DFID's Leadership Group, including the directors responsible for DFID's 13 divisions. There are board level champions or director-level Senior Responsible Offices for each element of 'Making it Happen'. Progress is discussed on a monthly basis by DFID's Management Board, and by the Leadership Group, both chaired by the Permanent Secretary. All members of the senior civil service whether based in the UK or overseas have been encouraged to discuss various Making it Happen themes with their staff making clear what this means for them in practice and providing feedback to the central Change Unit.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of contractors and suppliers to his Department have reported that they are compliant with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245308]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: To ensure compliance with the new data handling procedures in Government, the Department for International Development has introduced the mandatory data handling clauses into all relevant contracts issued from the 1 July 2008. An exercise to review existing contracts is also underway.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made workplace adjustments to accommodate employees with a disability. [246912]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has looked at the needs of persons with a range of disabilities—e.g. mobility problems, impaired hearing, hidden disabilities, etc. and has made a number of workplace adjustments across the Department to accommodate staff with a disability and comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what provision has been made to train his Department's staff on the implementation and use of the new Quest system; and what the cost of such training per staff member will be. [246884]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Quest Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) System project was completed in 2007. All staff were provided with a minimum of one and a half days of training, and more specialist training was provided as needed.

The cost per staff member cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Cars

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what policies his Department has to monitor his staff's vehicle usage. [246870]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department For International Development (DFID) has a travel policy which discourages the use of private motor vehicles for official travel where public transport is available.

Employees who travel by private vehicle for official travel must ensure that their car insurance provides cover for business travel and they have approval to use the vehicle for official trips.

DFID also actively encourages car sharing for employees commuting as part of our environmental initiatives.

Any vehicle mileage claims are checked in line with standard Government accounting procedures.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on agency temporary staffing for its UK offices in the last three years. [246915]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer provided to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 935W.

Guatemala: Women

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* funding and *(b)* other support his Department is providing in 2008-09 for organisations in Guatemala that seek to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions of violent offences against women in that country. [246415]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2008-09, DFID is putting £60,000 into the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG). The CICIG aims to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions of violent offences, including those against women. The objectives of the project are to support, strengthen and assist state institutions responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes, and to contribute to the dismantling of illegal security forces and clandestine security organisations and the criminal prosecution of individuals involved in their activities.

In addition, the British embassy in Guatemala City is providing Oxfam GB with £10,000 this financial year for two projects which aim to educate women (mainly indigenous women) on their human rights and specifically on their rights of access to justice within the Guatemalan legal system. The embassy is also funding a project with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). While this is not specifically targeting women, it does aim to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law. It involves training for judges, lawyers and prosecutors on international human rights law with the objectives of increasing judicial independence, decreasing impunity and abolishing the death penalty. The embassy is providing the ICJ with £10,000 in 2008-09.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246342]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development is unable to confirm if any employees are former prisoners. All new recruits are required to declare unspent criminal convictions which are checked as part of the Cabinet Office mandated Baseline Personnel Security Standard process, before they are offered a contract of employment. Where appropriate national security vetting checks are also undertaken and these include a review of spent convictions. Declarations of criminal convictions, which may or may not involve prison sentences, are not collated centrally but retained on classified individual personnel security files.

The Department does not discriminate against former prisoners. Appointments are made on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition, in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code, equal opportunities legislation, the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and an assessment in the round of any security factors presented.

Poverty

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what major measurable indicators his Department is contributing to addressing international poverty, as referred to in the Public Service Agreement. [246887]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A summary of performance against the agreed indicators for the 2008-11 Public Service Agreement 29 on international poverty reduction was published in DFID's Autumn Performance Report in December. The report is available in the Library and on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/aut-perf-report-08.pdf.

Public Service Agreements

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department will have met all of its Public Service Agreement targets by the end of the 2005 to 2008 plan. [246886]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) progress on its public service agreements are available in the Autumn Performance Report published in December 2008. The report is available in the Library and on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/aut-perf-report-08.pdf.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate is of the length of time which will be required for the proposed airport on St. Helena to be brought into service once approval has been granted. [244744]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: No decision has been made on the project. It would therefore be inappropriate to provide further information at this stage.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his most recent estimate was of the cost to the public purse of the proposed St. Helena airport before the pause in negotiations on the airport was announced. [246301]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It would be inappropriate to release any financial information, including cost estimates, relating to improving access to St. Helena as these could influence future negotiations.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish the environmental impact assessment of the proposed St. Helena airport development. [246313]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The environmental statement for the proposed St. Helena airport and supporting infrastructure was published in May 2008. It is available at:

www.sainthelenaaccess.com

Zimbabwe: Cholera

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe. [246204]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate. The cholera epidemic is the biggest in Zimbabwe's history. The UN is predicting that as many as 60,000 could be affected in the coming weeks. DFID is funding a £10 million package to help fight the cholera outbreak and support life-saving health services.

Tackling this outbreak represents a major coordinated international effort, led by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF with support from a wide range of bilateral partners (including USAID, ECHO, the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, France, Canada and Australia) and local and international NGO's. The response is co-ordinated in Harare and the UK is actively engaged.

Zimbabwe: Diamonds

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether it is the Government's policy to support calls for a suspension of Zimbabwe from the Kimberley Process for diamonds. [246304]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Reports of violence and state-sponsored murder in and around Marange diamond mine are a major cause for concern. The UK Government, who are represented in the Kimberley Process by the European Union (EU), is working with their partners, the diamond industry and civil society groups, to investigate this illegal trade and stem the flow of illicit diamonds from Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of distribution of humanitarian aid in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [246158]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Deliberate aid obstruction (in the form of a government ban on NGO activities) was a feature of the election period in 2008. This coupled with long-term policy failures and economic mismanagement by the government of Zimbabwe means that the country is facing its largest ever cholera epidemic and over five million people—in this highly fertile country—are receiving international food assistance.

Occasional localised instances of humanitarian obstruction can never be entirely ruled out but, according to latest UN reporting, there have been no impediments to humanitarian access reported by partner organisations on the ground in recent weeks. The UN monitors this situation closely and is quick to respond to any problems with obstruction or political interference in aid delivery.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UK humanitarian workers have been refused visas to enter Zimbabwe since November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [246300]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government generally do not consider the Government of Zimbabwe to be a credible development or humanitarian partner and we do not receive systematic reports on visa and other issues related to humanitarian work. However, there have been a number of reports of international NGO workers being refused or having difficulty in securing temporary employment permits which allow for longer stays.

This kind of behaviour is unfortunately symptomatic of a Government which has little or no regard for the welfare of its people. We are working as part of a co-ordinated international effort to tackle the worst cholera crisis in Zimbabwe's history, to provide food aid to over 5 million people and to meet other basic humanitarian needs. As part of this, any obstructive behaviour by the Government of Zimbabwe will be raised with them directly through UN channels.

TREASURY

Car Allowances

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the rate for approved mileage allowance payment was last set. [248685]

Mr. Timms: The current rates for approved mileage allowance payments were introduced in April 2002.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247370]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not provide any direct funding to charities or voluntary organisations. Government funding for a charity or voluntary organisation would be delivered through the Department with policy responsibility for the area in which the organisation operates.

Child Benefit

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average period between approval of an application for child benefit and the first benefit payment was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [247321]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 328W.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the average time taken to process applications for child benefit in the most recent period for which information is available; and what steps he plans to take to reduce that time. [248670]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 328W.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will publish the names of those on the inter-departmental working group set up to look into the repair of church buildings and the bodies they represent. [248146]

Yvette Cooper: Following the commitment made in Budget 2007 to examine how the Government can help churches and heritage buildings, officials and Ministers from: HM Treasury; Communities and Local Government; the Office of the Third Sector; the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have met with the Church of England Archbishops' Council to consider ways in which church buildings might benefit from existing departmental programmes in order to support the Government's community objectives.

Clear Line of Sight Programme

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the Clear Line of Sight project; and if he will make a statement. [247226]

Yvette Cooper: Good progress continues to be made in taking forward the Clear Line of Sight project. The Government submitted an initial Memorandum to Parliament in November 2008, setting out the high level principles and proposals underpinning the project. The Government plan to submit formal proposals in a second Memorandum to Parliament in due course, reflecting comments received from the Parliamentary Committees on its initial proposals, as well as the outcome of an external consultation exercise conducted during the autumn of 2008.

Debts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the International Monetary Fund on its assessment of *(a)* public and *(b)* private debt in the UK. [248191]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor maintains regular contact with international financial institutions. As President of the G20, the UK is actively working with the International Monetary Fund to strengthen international macro-economic and financial surveillance.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many official journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by plane in each of the last five years. [247502]

Angela Eagle: The information requested could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248377]

Angela Eagle: The catering company providing facilities within the Treasury is contracted under the Department's PFI contract and not directly employed by the Department. The contractor's suppliers and amounts spent are commercially sensitive and are not available for publication.

Departmental ICT

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what IT systems used by his Department access data from the central Frameworks Database; and what the stated purpose of each system is; [248103]

(2) what calculations of *(a)* tax, *(b)* tax allowances and *(c)* tax credits undertaken by his Department access data from the central Frameworks Database; [248104]

(3) which Government Departments other than his own have access to data from the central Frameworks Database. [248105]

Mr. Timms: The following HMRC IT systems interface with Corporate Data Frameworks and Benefits Payments Engines.

IT System	*Purpose*
National Insurance Recording System	NIRS2 is a suite of services that administer and maintain the UK National Insurance (NI) system.
Student Loans Business Service	Administration of Collection of Student Loans.
Self Assessment Tracing	Used by the HMRC Accounts Office to trace returned letter service addresses
CESA (Self Assessment)	Maintains a data base of Self Assessment customer records including Tax Return and Liability and Payment details.

IT System	Purpose
Construction Industry Scheme (CIS)	Supports operation of Construction Industry Scheme.
Structured Access Requests	Structured Access Requests allows people to tell us about changes to their details, such as a new address, via the internet.
Taxpayer Business Service	Provides on-line functionality to trace and maintain taxpayer designator/ details for all PAYE and SA cases.
Corporate Payments Made Framework	Used to make Child Trust Fund payments to the Financial Institution providers of the Trust funds
Payments Made Framework	Used by the New Tax Credits system to make payments to customers
The Pensions Scheme Service Application	Allows the registration and maintenance of Pension Scheme Returns for all pensions.
Strategic Accounting Framework Exploitation	An accounting tool.
Computerisation of PAYE (COP)	System supports operation of PAYE.
Movements 2003	System supports operation of PAYE.
Integrated Debt Management System	To receive payment and account for tax and other liabilities; to process declarations for C and E taxes, duties etc; to update customer records; and to take the correct action to bring in late returns and payments.
Filing by Internet	Allows customers to file returns and forms on line.
Operational Data Store	Main transactional databases for information passed to and from Head of Duty systems.
Enterprise Application Integration	Enterprise Application Integration - Service bus to route messages between applications for different types of technology. To aggregate data into frameworks
Child Benefit Computer System	Used for the administration and payment of Child Benefit
Child Trust Fund (CTF)	Automated system that issues CTF vouchers and tracks the opening of trust fund accounts on behalf of children born after 31 August 2002. Introduced in 2005. Service/costs include the CTF Index, originally built as a migration tool for CB2, but now used to automatically validate children in relation to claims for Child Tax Credit. This service matches Child Benefit Computer System personal details data against Citizen Identity framework to identify or create records for adults and children on CID.
New Tax Credits	The core system integrates closely with the corporate data frameworks and the payments made framework to make Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit payments.
GGIS (Government Gateway)	GGIS does not directly access CID; GGIS sends out known facts update file from the data stores. The data stores talk to CID and there is an interchange of data between.
Citizen E-portal	Allows customers to check if they qualify for tax credits.
Contact History	Stores and retrieves contacts maintaining a history of contacts between the HMRC and its customers
Corporate Data Warehouse	The system which stores data from various departmental systems and allows users, to join, manipulate and interrogate data
Business Review of Collection Service (BROCS)	Employers' ledger record. Receives and accounts for employees PAYE deductions made by employer
Employer Business Service	Employer Business Service is the system used for recording PAYE records for business and individuals who employ staff.
Electronic Resource Information Capture	Stores details of employers' end of year submissions until a complete return is held and can be processed.

The calculations of tax, tax allowances and tax credits are done in the main IT systems for those taxes and tax credits. A number of these systems utilise the frameworks data.

No other Government Departments have access to Central Frameworks. However, HMRC do share names, addresses and NINO data from the Central Frameworks with DWP.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [247923]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1392W.

Economic Situation

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will adopt a public procurement policy to assist British companies during the current financial situation. [247090]

Angela Eagle: Public procurement is subject to EU and international regulations set in place to open up markets and prevent discrimination. The Government's procurement policy is to achieve value for money for the taxpayer, usually achieved through competition.

Within those policy and legal obligations the Government are committed to being a good customer to industry. Since publication of the Treasury report Transforming Government Procurement in 2007, a number of measures have been set in place to improve procurement capability and professionalism.

Specific measures implemented in response to the downturn include the announcement of a target for Government Departments to aim to pay all invoices within 10 working days. Also, the European Commission has announced a relaxation of the timescales under the public procurement rules to allow for faster procurement processes where this will be of benefit to industry in the current climate. These changes have been promulgated to purchasing authorities.

Landfill Tax

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of *(a)* the total tonnage of waste and *(b)* the revenue from landfill tax on waste sent to landfill in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008, broken down by (A) non-recyclable materials and (B) recyclable material in the form of (1) glass, (2) paper, (3) plastics, (4) organic waste, (5) wood, (6) metals, (7) textiles and (8) electronic items. [248046]

Angela Eagle: Total tonnage of waste and landfill tax receipts for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill.

Please note the revenue figures for 2008 are not yet available. HM Revenue and Customs will publish these figures at the end of May. There are no data available for non-recyclable materials and recyclable materials that have been sent to landfill.

Members: Correspondence

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 22 October 2008 on behalf of a constituent regarding economic difficulties. [247208]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues, there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 15 October 2008 and 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare on his constituent Mr. Ian Wild. [248020]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 13 November 2008, on NDFA investments via Lehman Brothers Treasury Company BV, PO reference 1/63049/2008. [248396]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 27 October and 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, reference FD4347, regarding Kaupthing Isle of Man customers. [248524]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 13 October 2008, Treasury Reference: 5/03547/2008, concerning Mr S A Mack of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [248584]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member. HM Treasury has received unusually high volumes of correspondence in recent months, and letters have taken longer than usual to respond to.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North on a constituent (ref: PO 5/03827/2008). [248918]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Aldridge-Brownhills of *(a)* 10 October 2008 in respect of Mr David Hill and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, *(b)* 13 October 2008 in respect of Castings PLC and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander and *(c)* 16 October 2008 in respect of Mr Peter Sault and the Royal Bank of Scotland and Roywest Holdings. [249044]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's public sector capital expenditure was in each year since 1997-98; and what the planned public sector capital expenditure is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [247603]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their spending plans twice a year, in the Budget and the pre-Budget report. Latest figures on spending plans are published in Table B10 of PBR08. Outturns are reported monthly in the Public Sector Finance Release published jointly by HM Treasury and the Office for National Statistics.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's public sector current expenditure was in each year since 1997-98; and what the planned public sector current expenditure is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [247604]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set out their spending plans twice a year, in the Budget and the pre-Budget report. Latest figures on spending plans are published in Table B10 of the 2008 pre-Budget report. Outturn against plans is reported monthly in the Public Sector Finance Release published jointly by HM Treasury and the Office for National Statistics.

Revenue and Customs: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the savings from the reorganisation of HM Revenue and Customs office space in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [247322]

Mr. Timms: The reorganisation of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC's) office space in Yorkshire and the Humber will yield estimated annual estates savings of £12.6 million. These are however only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve from the restructuring of its business and estate. The main reason for the reorganisation is to allow HMRC to achieve operational efficiencies and better customer service across the UK by consolidating staff and work in fewer locations and introducing new and more efficient working practices.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received from local authorities on proposed tax office closures in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [247324]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the HM Revenue and Customs reorganisation programme on levels of employment in Yorkshire and the Humber; and if he will make a statement. [247325]

Mr. Timms: HMRC is reorganising its business across the UK so that it can operate more efficiently, and provide better customer service, with fewer staff. Its offices in Yorkshire and the Humber have been reviewed as part of the programme to align estate with future business requirements. Staff in offices that are due to close will wherever possible relocate to one of the long-term locations. If they cannot do so, alternative redeployment options will be considered, including redeployment to another public service employer.

Tax Allowances: Self-Employed

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of tax relief for training by the self-employed allowable under PAYE in 2007-08. [247546]

Mr. Timms: Training costs are an allowable expense against profits for the self-employed but the amount claimed is not separately identified on their self-assessment tax returns, so estimates of the cost are not available.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the agreement between Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies and the organisation which acts as the agent of the Valuation Office Agency, redacting any commercially confidential information. [245959]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency is not a party to the agreement and so is not able to provide a copy of it.

VAT: Sunscreens

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to reduce value added tax on suncare products which give children protection against the effects of the sun. [247086]

Mr. Timms: All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

The case for a VAT reduction for sun care products has been looked at carefully, but we consider the most effective approach to be the promotion of the broad range of precautions necessary for sun protection, not just sun care products, for example, through Government support for Cancer Research UK's "SunSmart" skin cancer advice and awareness raising campaign.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on proposals to reduce the rate of value added tax for suncare products; and if he will make a statement. [247087]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families claiming tax credits in 2006-07 experienced an income increase of between *(a)* £2,500 and £5,000, *(b)* £5,001 and £7,500, *(c)* £7,501 and £10,000, *(d)* £10,001 and £15,000 and *(e)* £15,001 and £25,000. [249193]

Mr. Timms: The following table shows the average number of families who were claiming tax credits in 2006-07, split by income rise in each specified band.

Income increase bands for 2006-07 finalised awards

Income rise bandings (2005-06 to 2006-07)	*Number of awards (Thousand)*
Between £2,500 and £5,000	460.2
Between £5,001 and £7,500	239.7
Between £7,501 and £10,000	140.3
Between £10,001 and £15,000	139.8
Between £15,001 and £25,000	82.2
All	1,062.2

The income rise has been derived from the 2005-06 and 2006-07 incomes which were used to finalise the awards.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the documentation relating to the Tax Credit Transformation Programme. [249196]

Mr. Timms: Information on the programme has been published in a number of documents and reports, including:

Tax Credits: Improving delivery and choice—a discussion paper (May 2008)

Budget 2008 (March 2008)

HMRC Departmental Report 2008 (July 2008)

HMRC Autumn Performance Report 2008 (December 2008)

These documents can be found on HM Treasury and HMRC websites.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Age: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average age of *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire was at the latest date for which information is available. [249064]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on what the average age of (a) men and (b) women resident in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire was at the latest date for which information is available. (249064)

The median age of the resident male and female population in both Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire was 38 years and 40 years respectively. Data for Hemel Hempstead are based on mid-2006 population estimates by parliamentary constituency. Data for Hertfordshire are based on mid-2007 population estimates. These estimates are the latest available.

Death: Carbon Monoxide

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many recorded deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred in *(a)* owner-occupied residences, *(b)* accommodation let from a private landlord, *(c)* accommodation let from a letting agent, *(d)* social housing, *(e)* care or sheltered housing and *(f)* independent halls or hostels in each of the last five years. [248846]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many recorded deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning have occurred in (a) owner-occupied residences, (b) accommodation let from a private landlord, (c) accommodation let from a letting agent, (d) social housing, (e) care or sheltered housing and (f) independent halls or hostels in each of the last five years. (248846)

The attached table provides the number of deaths where the toxic effect of carbon monoxide was the cause of death, in England and Wales, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). Death statistics are collated from information recorded at death registration. Although the place of usual residence of the deceased and the place of death are recorded, tenancy arrangements are not, so it is not possible to provide figures by the breakdown requested.

Table 1: Number of deaths with a cause of carbon monoxide poisoning[1], England and Wales[2], 2003 to 2007[3]

	Deaths (persons)
	England and Wales
2003	386
2004	374
2005	263
2006	261
2007	251

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code T58.
[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Death: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children have died in Doncaster in each of the last five years. [248779]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many children have died in Doncaster in each of the last five years. (248779)

The table attached provides the number of deaths of children under 16 years of age in Doncaster metropolitan district, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths of children[1], Doncaster metropolitan district[2] 2003-07[3]

	Deaths (children)
	Doncaster
2003	32
2004	24
2005	32
2006	30
2007	34

[1] Children are defined as persons under 16 years of age.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* jobs, *(b)* private sector jobs and *(c)* public sector jobs there were in the UK in each year since 1979. [246807]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many (a) jobs, (b) private sector jobs and (c) public sector jobs there were in the UK in each year since 1979. (246807)

Statistics on jobs in the private and public sectors are not available. The closest measure available is employment. These figures will therefore exclude any vacancies.

The Office for National Statistics produces employment statistics for the UK from the Labour Force Survey (published monthly), and for the public sector through the quarterly Public Sector Employment surveys. A consistent time series is only available back to 1992 and the available information is provided at Annex A.

Annex A: Public and Private Sector Employment,[1]

United Kingdom, Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted, Headcount

	Public Sector[2,3,4]		*Private Sector[5]*		*Total Employment[6]*
	Thousand	*Percentage*	*Thousand*	*Percentage*	*Thousand*
1992	5,909	23	19,623	77	25,535
1993	5,598	22	19,685	78	25,288
1994	5,435	21	20,073	79	25,511
1995	5,372	21	20,415	79	25,788
1996	5,273	20	20,731	80	26,005
1997	5,179	20	21,313	81	26,494
1998	5,168	19	21,608	81	26,771
1999	5,190	19	21,926	81	27,116
2000	5,270	19	22,259	81	27,529
2001	5,363	19	22,338	81	27,701
2002	5,471	20	22,416	80	27,887
2003	5,627	20	22,574	80	28,201
2004	5,745	20	22,679	80	28,424
2005	5,845	20	22,936	80	28,781
2006	5,811	20	23,218	80	29,029
2007	5,766	20	23,433	80	29,199
2008	5,750	20	23,741	81	29,491

[1] Annual figures relate to June (Q2).
[2] Estimates derived from public sector organisations.
[3] Estimates for Northern Ireland included in the UK total are sourced from the Quarterly Employment Survey and are based on jobs rather than employers.
[4] Estimates from December 2007 are based partly on projections.
[5] Estimated as the difference between total employment and the public sector employment estimates.
[6] Labour Force Survey employment; all aged 16 and over.
Source:
Labour Force Survey and returns from public sector organisations.

Unemployment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England were unemployed in each year since 1993. [247594]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people living in (a) North Yorkshire and (b) England were unemployed in each year since 1993. (247594)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor, the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16+, resident in (a) North Yorkshire and (b) England, who were unemployed in each year. The estimates for England have also been compiled from the APS to be consistent with those for North Yorkshire and will therefore differ from the unemployment figures published in the Labour Market First Release.

Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1995 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008 as well as June 2008, from the APS. Figures for earlier years are not available. The July 2007 to June 2008 APS dataset is the most recent for which figures are available, whereas a consistent time series is best provided using periods ending in February or March.

As the estimates for North Yorkshire are for a subset of the population in a relatively small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Table 1: Number of persons unemployed[1] resident in England and North Yorkshire

12 months ending	*England*	*Thousand North Yorkshire*
February 1995	2,160	15
February 1996	2,002	18
February 1997	1,833	14
February 1998	1,580	14
February 1999	1,413	13
February 2000	1,388	13
February 2001	1,237	10
February 2002	1,181	7
February 2003	1,234	9
February 2004	1,207	9
March 2005	1,175	7
March 2006	1,278	9
March 2007	1,378	11
March 2008	1,356	9
June 2008[2]	*1,366	****q

[1] Level of unemployment are provided for persons aged 16 and over. The figures presented are weighted to population estimates published in 2007.
[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See guide to quality as follows -
Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV – for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220
Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical robustness
* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable.
**** CV ≤ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.
Source:
Annual Labour Force Survey & Annual Population Survey

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 944W, on anti-social behaviour: fixed penalties, how many penalty notices for disorder have been *(a)* issued and *(b)* not paid for each type of offence in each of the last four years. [247291]

Maria Eagle: The number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued and not paid within the suspended enforcement period in England and Wales for each year from 2004 to 2007 (latest published), broken down by offence are in the following table.

Under the PND Scheme, recipients have 21 days in which either to pay the penalty or request a court hearing. If no action is taken, a fine of one and a half times the penalty amount is registered against an offender by the magistrates court. The overall fine payment rate at court is 87 per cent.; the courts fine registration system cannot differentiate between those fines arising from unpaid PNDs and any other fine.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders of all ages and not paid[1], broken down by offence, in England and Wales, 2004-07[2]

Offence	2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Issued	*No: paid*	*Issued*	*Not paid*	*Issued*	*Not paid.*	*Issued*	*Not paid*
Wasting police time	1,171	659	2,525	1,326	3,933	2,022	3,966	2,104
Misuse of public telecommunications system	117	65	405	167	909	386	1,193	523
Giving false alarm to fire or rescue authority	44	26	92	43	106	63	96	41
Causing harassment, alarm and distress	28,500	14,484	64,007	30,092	82,235	39,115	77,827	37,470
Throwing fireworks	177	88	642	295	682	302	649	275
Drunk and disorderly	26,600	11,682	37,038	16,176	43,556	18,883	46,996	20,629
Criminal Damage (under £500)	1,100	509	12,168	5,172	20,620	9,269	19,946	8,874
Theft (retail under £200)	2,672	1,202	21,997	12,940	38,772	22,603	45,146	26,035
Breach of fireworks curfew	12	2	33	15	53	19	39	14
Possession of category 4 firework	12	7	13	8	28	16	22	12
Possession of adult firework by person under 18	20	10	47	18	76	25	106	39
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	—	—	32	8	47	12	81	17
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	—	—	3	1	60	7	54	13
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	113	39	2,058	253	3,195	439	3,583	509
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	94	29	170	64	407	139	555	235
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	—	—	83	24	60	21	64	33
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	20	11	209	81	297	121	431	163
Trespass on a railway	96	48	220	123	1,042	491	1,527	747
Throwing stones at a train/railway	66	31	20	7	15	9	25	12
Drunk on a highway	2,497	1,264	3,138	1,469	2,712	1,279	2,066	920
Consumption of alcohol in public place	483	372	712	544	1,061	809	1,544	1,216
Littering	91	26	737	369	1,169	576	1,374	669
Consumption of alcohol by person under 18 on relevant premises	7	4	84	18	75	20	85	18
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 on relevant premises	6	3	27	13	14	4	11	2
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	—	—	21	8	73	21	158	49
Total—all offences	63,639	30,561	146,481	69,234	201,197	96,651	207,544	100,619

[1] Not paid = not paid within the suspended enforcement period.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Approved Premises: Harwich

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many new bail hostels are planned to be built in Harwich constituency. [247062]

Mr. Hanson: I do not intend to provide any new bail hostels in Harwich constituency.

If the hon. Gentleman is referring to the accommodation and support service for bail and Home Detention Curfew provided by ClearSprings, none is currently planned for Harwich constituency.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: Cheshire

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ClearSprings bail hostels have been (*a*) planned and (*b*) approved in Crewe and Nantwich constituency. [249392]

Mr. Hanson: The hon. Gentleman is incorrect in referring to the ClearSprings' addresses as bail hostels. They are leased private properties. Two properties were planned and were brought into use in Crewe; these have subsequently closed and one new property will be sourced.

Bail Accommodation and Support Service: East Midlands

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which local government wards in Leicester, Leicestershire, Northampton, Northamptonshire and Peterborough there is accommodation provided by the ClearSprings Bail Accommodation and Support Service; and how many such premises there are in each such ward. [249278]

Mr. Hanson: There is one property in each of the wards listed as follows:

Leicestershire (all in Leicester)

Beaumont Leys

Fosse

Freeman

Westcotes

Northamptonshire (all in Northampton)

St. James

Abingdon

Kingsley
Thorplands
Peterborough
Orton Longueville
Orton Waterville
Paston.

Bribery Bill: Draft

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the proposed date of publication of the Bribery Bill is. [249300]

Maria Eagle: The Government intend to publish a draft Bribery Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny this Session. No firm decision has been made regarding the publication date.

Bronzefield Prison

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* escapes, *(b)* attempted escapes and *(c)* assaults on staff there have been at HM Prison Bronzefield in each year since it opened. [248403]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no escapes or attempted escapes at Bronzefield since it opened.

The table shows incidents of prisoner on staff assaults in Bronzefield in each of the last years since 2004.

The information is set out in the table and is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide an indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other and Other (which may include non-prisoner perpetrators e.g. visitors). The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of an underlying trend for a particular prison.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers' Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to the public and contracted out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Bronzefield prison

Classification	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Prisoner on officer	17	85	77	41	80
Prisoner on other	3	2	4	2	8
Other	2	3	1	1	3

Note:
Bronzefield opened in 2004 which is why the numbers for this year are lower than subsequent years.

Crime: Compensation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what schemes operated by or on behalf of his Department other than the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority the decisions of one officer are reviewed by an officer at the same level as the one who made the original decision. [245042]

Mr. Malik: In addition to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the two legal aid schemes which are administered by the Legal Services Commission (LSC). These are the Community Legal Service (CLS) and the Criminal Defence Service (CDS).

For decisions about CLS legal aid funding, it is usual practice for LSC caseworkers to review previous decisions of LSC caseworkers at the same level initially, and then escalate if the dispute or issue has not been resolved, or if the more formal review mechanisms provided for in provider contracts or regulations apply.

Decisions about CDS legal aid funding for magistrates courts cases conducted on the basis of means are made by court staff. Applicants can ask for a review on the basis that his or her financial circumstances have changed, or that they believe an administrative error has occurred. These reviews are conducted by the same level of staff as applications are effectively reapplying but with new or different information. Applicants can also ask for a review on the grounds of hardship, either before or after the formal means assessment. Decisions about hardship reviews are made by LSC staff of the same level as the court staff who made the original decision about funding.

I am not aware of any other schemes run by or on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, where original decisions are subsequently reviewed by an officer at the same level.

Custodial Sentences: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people received a custodial sentence for carrying a weapon or a blade in each year from 2004 to 2007. [247150]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The figures cannot be compared with the figures being used to monitor the Tackling Knife Crime Action Programme (TKAP) because they use different data sources and counting rules. The following figures are based on counts of offenders from the court proceedings database. The TKAP figures are based on counts of offences from the PNC database which provides more timely monitoring information.

Number of persons sentenced to immediate custody for possessing a knife or offensive weapon[1], 2004-07

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Persons sentenced to immediate custody	1,636	1,802	1,866	1,918
Persons given suspended sentence[2]	45	242	1,087	1,210

[1] Offences of: possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, possession of offensive weapons on school premises without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, having an article with a blade or point on school premises and having an article with a blade or point in a public place.
[2] The suspended sentence order was introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offences committed on or after 4 April 2005. Some of those sentenced in 2005 would have been given the old style fully suspended sentence, however, for ease of interpretation, all suspended sentences have been shown together.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246646]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice was created in May 2007 and since then my Department has not had a complaint made about its advertising. There were no complaints made or upheld against advertising conducted by the Department when it was the Department for Constitutional Affairs or the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248429]

Mr. Wills: All staff employed directly by the core Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service are subject to the same arrangements for pay irrespective of whether they are temporary (i.e. fixed term) employees or permanent staff.

Where they exist, differences in hourly pay rates for individuals within the same grade are for reasons other than whether the member of staff is fixed term or permanent. Such differences may be the position within the pay band or geographical location. Following machinery of government changes, there are small numbers of staff within the Ministry employed on their former employers' terms and conditions and who opted to retain their legacy pay arrangements. These staff therefore have an hourly rate of pay determined by those legacy terms.

Hourly rates paid to the staff engaged through temporary staffing agencies is determined between the agency and the individual. When Parliament has decided the implementation date of the Agency Workers Directive, guidance on the terms will be reviewed with suppliers.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 744W, on departmental procurement, if he will place in the Library a list of names and addresses of the payees. [241927]

Mr. Malik: The previous answer identified that the payee supplier database held approximately 144,000 records. It contains the details of a large number of individuals and these payees cannot easily be separated. It is not possible at this time to deposit this information in the Library of the House of Commons, without including details of individuals. Creating an IT solution to eliminate individuals data and sensitive data could not be completed without incurring disproportionate cost.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243356]

Maria Eagle: Until October 2008 the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and its agencies was required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30-day payment target and does not therefore currently publish information about payment within ten days. However, following my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's commitment of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 268-69, that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days, we will additionally report ten day payment performance from the period January to March 2009.

MOJ and its agencies do not currently publish information about size of suppliers. We do not discriminate by size because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were in prison in England and Wales for non-payment of fixed penalty notices on *(a)* 1 April 2006, *(b)* 1 April 2007 and *(c)* 1 April 2008. [247602]

Mr. Straw: Where recipients of some fixed penalty notices neither pay the penalty nor request a court hearing a fine is registered against them and enforced as any other fine. The number of these fines which result in committal to prison for fine default is not separately recorded. The number of all fine defaulters detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales at the end of March in each of the years 2006 and 2008 is given in the following table:

As at 31 March each year	Number
2006	102
2007	83
2008	88

This information can also be found in the following website, which is updated monthly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The figures provided have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Magistrates

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many sitting magistrates are currently serving; [247684]

(2) what steps are being taken to encourage (*a*) members of ethnic minorities and (*b*) women to apply to become magistrates. [247685]

Mr. Straw: There are currently 29,505 magistrates serving in England and Wales.

The Government are committed to a magistracy that is reflective of the diverse communities it serves. Local advisory committees, who recruit and select magistrates, are required to target recruitment at under-represented groups in their areas. My Department has also provided substantial funding to specific awareness raising initiatives such as Operation Black Vote's Magistrates Shadowing Scheme.

There has been a slight increase in the proportion of black minority ethnic (BME) magistrates in recent years (now 7.3 per cent.). Of the 1,899 magistrates appointed in 2008, just over 10 per cent. were from BME backgrounds. There are now more female than male magistrates (now 51.2 per cent.).

Magistrates Courts: Lyndhurst

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future of Lyndhurst magistrates court. [249286]

Bridget Prentice: As part of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), HMCS Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HMCS HIOW) have to make efficiency savings over the next three years. No decisions have yet been made but there is a proposal to close Lyndhurst magistrates court temporarily and move its work to Southampton magistrates court, a modern purpose-built courthouse with courtroom capacity for the workload of Lyndhurst. Stakeholders will be consulted before any final decisions are made.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account he will take in determining the future of Lyndhurst magistrates court of (*a*) the assurances given to residents of Totton, the Waterside and the New Forest that the previous closure of the court facilities in Totton was being compensated for by new facilities in Lyndhurst and (*b*) expenditure on new court facilities in Lyndhurst when the court in Totton was closed; and what effect on the (i) workload of and (ii) waiting times for courts in Southampton would result from the closure of Lyndhurst Magistrates' Court. [249287]

Bridget Prentice: A decision was taken in 1993 by the then Magistrates Courts Committee to close the five existing magistrates court facilities in the New Forest and replace these with a new facility at Lyndhurst. Any decision to close the magistrates court at Lyndhurst temporarily will take into account the needs of those who live and work in the New Forest area and their ability to access justice.

The cost of converting the police station building in Lyndhurst to a courthouse was £800,000. Southampton magistrates court currently has three courtrooms which are not used daily.

The workload of Lyndhurst can be easily accommodated in Southampton without any adverse impact and this would have no impact on waiting times.

Magistrates Courts: Welsh Language

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Libra computer system will be able to provide magistrates court summonses in Welsh; and if he will make a statement. [249298]

Bridget Prentice: When the bilingual version of the new Libra IT system is introduced in Wales in September 2009, magistrates court summonses will be produced in Welsh as a matter of course. Until September 2009 summonses can be translated upon request within one working day.

National Offender Management Service

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings staff of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) have held with (*a*) the National Association of Probation Officers and (*b*) the Prison Officers' Association to discuss NOMS resources for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [247072]

Mr. Straw: NOMS officials meet with NAPO officers and officials on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of Probation Service issues. Several recent meetings have included the subject of NOMS resources for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. In particular the chief operating officer briefed the trade unions, including NAPO, on budgets in November and the director general and chief operating officer met and discussed budgetary issues with NAPO full-time officials last week.

The NOMS Management Board meet on a quarterly basis with the POA NEC to discuss all matters relating to the operational management of the Prison Service and staff. The director general informs the POA NEC of any issues in relation to resources, during the course of the meeting. Issues are then subsequently discussed. There have been no specific meetings to discuss NOMS resourcing.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff with (*a*) a probation background and (*b*) a prison background are currently employed in the National Offender Management Service at (i) Grade 7, (ii) Grade 6 and (iii) above Grade 6. [246928]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of staff working within the Prison Service and National Offender Management Service headquarters in grades equivalent to grade 7, grade 6 and above grade 6, who have operational prison experience, is contained in the following table.

Prison Service and NOMS HQ staff with operational experience, as at 30 November 2008

Equivalent	*With operational experience*	*Total staff*
Above grade 6	18	71
Grade 6	109	194
Grade 7	266	744
Total	393	1,009

The Probation Service does not collect information centrally on career histories. It is therefore not possible to provide figures of staff currently employed in senior roles who have progressed to that position from within the Probation Service.

National Probation Service for England and Wales: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of Probation Service staff expected to leave Greater Manchester probation area as a result of *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* retirement and *(c)* redundancy in (i) 2009-10, (ii) 2010-11 and (iii) and 2011-12; [245490]

(2) what estimated share of national Probation Service savings the Greater Manchester probation area is expected to achieve in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [245491]

(3) what the forecast reduction in previously planned expenditure is for the Greater Manchester probation area in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; [245492]

(4) what the flat cash grant allocation for the Greater Manchester probation area is for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [245493]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice is seeking efficiency savings over the next three years as set out in the Department's annual report for 2007-08. As is the case across Government, the Probation Service will need to make efficiency savings.

The NOMS agency is providing guidance that will help achieve the savings by simplifying processes and reducing administration overheads but ultimately, staffing projections and decisions on the size and scope of any-staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

The Greater Manchester probation area is expected to achieve approximately 5.2 per cent. of national efficiency savings required from the Probation Service. No efficiency savings expectations have yet been set for probation areas and trusts for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Although some areas of the budget have yet to be finalised, the current indicative budget allocation for the Greater Manchester probation area for 2009-10 is approximately £51.1 million compared to £52.6 million in 2008-09. The difference of £1.5 million consists of £0.3 million training provision not yet allocated due to a full review of Probation Officer training currently underway and efficiency savings of £1.2 million. No indicative budgets or efficiency savings expectations have yet been set for probation areas and trusts for 2010-11 or 2011-12.

The efficiency savings requirement for 2009-10 for the Greater Manchester probation area is in line with the national efficiency savings programme for the Probation Service and the NOMS Agency. The NOMS Agency is working to determine how the saving can be achieved in ways that protect front line services.

Parc Prison

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners there are in HM Prison Parc. [249337]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of November 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, there were 1,199 prisoners detained in Parc prison.

This information is available at the following website, which is updated monthly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

This figure has been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Parc Young Offender Institution: Mental Health Services

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on provision of mental health in-reach services at Parc Young Offender Institution. [247144]

Mr. Hanson: This is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government and ongoing liaison takes place about the provision of mental health in-reach services at Parc Young Offenders Institution. The latest information is that the Local Health Board has submitted a draft business case for provision of Tier 2/3 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services to the Welsh Assembly Government and it is now under consideration.

Prisoners Transfers: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many transfers of prisoners *(a)* from prisons in Wales to prisons in England and *(b)* from prisons in England to prisons in Wales took place in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [249336]

Mr. Hanson: This information is not kept. To obtain this information would require a manual search through individual records for the past three years at a disproportionate cost.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1023W, on prisoners: compensation, how many prisoners have instigated legal proceedings against his Department or its agencies under the Human Rights Act 1998 since the Act came into force. [247509]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Many prisoners instigate legal proceedings, of these a proportion include reference to alleged breaches of human rights. In some cases the claim will be brought wholly on a Human Rights Act (HRA) basis and in others an HRA basis of claim will be one of a number of alleged grounds of claim. Whether HRA is relied upon entirely, or in part, or not at all legal proceedings, is to a considerable extent a choice of approach on the part of the claimant's lawyers as there is a considerable overlap between pre-existing domestic law rights and human rights.

Prisoners: Wales

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners ordinarily not resident in Wales are in prisons in Wales. [249335]

Mr. Hanson: Latest available data from September 2008 shows there were 433 prisoners held in prisons in Wales with a home address outside Wales.

Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Prisoners: Young People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of people under the age of 18 were being held in Prison Service establishments in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [247149]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the numbers of juveniles aged under 18 detained under sentence showing also their percentage of the prison population of England and Wales is contained in the following table.

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Males and females										
All ages	51,392	53,180	54,212	57,306	59,439	60,976	62,257	63,493	65,601	68,234
15-17	1,710	1,851	1,965	2,089	1,781	1,763	1,836	1,865	1,883	1,932
As percentage of prison population	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3

Notes:
1. 1999-07 taken from 7.3 in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007.
2. 2008 taken from monthly published table for June 2008

The prison service does not normally accommodate 15 and 16 year old girls, only 17 year old girls.

This table is taken from table 7.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The figure for June 2008 was taken from the monthly briefing published at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

This website is updated monthly.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made in his plans to build new prisons. [247722]

Mr. Straw: The Capacity Programme will deliver a total of 20,000 new places by 2014 through a number of new prisons, expansions at existing prisons, and more efficient use of the estate. To date, we have delivered over 4,200 places including a new prison, HMP Kennet (Merseyside), which became operational in June 2007.

Planning permission has been approved for new prisons at Belmarsh West (London), Belmarsh East (London; to be located within the existing Belmarsh boundary) and Maghull (Merseyside). Planning permission is currently being sought for new prisons at Featherstone (Wolverhampton), Littlehey (Cambridgeshire; to be located within the existing Littlehey boundary), and for the conversion of former RAF accommodation to a prison at Coltishall (Norfolk). We also plan to submit planning permission for a new YOI at Glen Parva (Leicestershire; to be located within the existing YOI boundary) later this year.

We will be publishing our response to the Prison Clusters (formerly known as Titans) consultation exercise by the end of this financial year. This response will set out more details on how we plan to develop these prisons.

Prisons: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to announce the site of a new prison in Wales. [247069]

Mr. Hanson: We expect to make an announcement in early 2009.

Probation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the projected Probation Service caseload is for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [247078]

Mr. Hanson: No projections of probation caseload are available.

However, projections for the number of order and licence starts have been made. These are set out in the following table:

Projected community demand (starts) 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11

	Community Order and suspended sentence order	*Licence supervision*
2009-10	203,400	47,600
2001-11	209,500	49,000

Probation Service for England and Wales: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation posts he estimates will be lost as a result of the budget cuts anticipated during *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10, *(c)* 2010-11 and *(d)* 2011-12. [246927]

Maria Eagle: Budgets for later years are not yet agreed but funding plans for 2009-10 require efficiency savings from operational budgets in probation of 2.2 per cent. This is in the context of a 70 per cent. real terms increase in probation funding over the last 10 years.

The NOMS agency is providing guidance that will help achieve savings first by simplifying process and reducing administration but ultimately, the size and scope of any staffing reductions will rest with the 42 areas and trusts who manage probation business at the local level.

Probation: Recruitment

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many probation staff who have been fully qualified outside the Probation Service are planned to be recruited in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [247074]

Mr. Hanson: The 42 probation boards and trusts within the National Probation Service function as separate employers and work force planning takes place at local level. Decisions about the timing and profile of staff requirements are therefore a matter for local employers and take into account of local resources.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trainee probation officers are planned to be recruited in each month of *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [247076]

Mr. Hanson: Trainee probation officers are not recruited on a monthly basis. The last intake of trainee probation officers was in October 2008. There are currently 550 due to complete training this year and 300 in 2010.

Probation: Training

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what staff at each grade are responsible for the design and delivery of future probation training; and what the length and nature of their direct experience of probation services is in each case. [247070]

Mr. Hanson: The responsibility for the design and delivery of future probation training rests with the Project Board, supported by a project team and Reference Group. All three groups include probation representatives at chief officer level and other members with substantial probation practitioner experience.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget is for the training of probation staff in each month of *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [247073]

Mr. Hanson: The budget for training probation staff in the first six months of 2009-10 will be £2,916,674 each month. This figure includes the salary and university costs associated with training a Trainee Probation Officer (TPO) plus the costs allocated centrally for training Probation Service Officers (PSO). It is not possible to calculate the likely costs for 2010-11 at this time.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future training of probation staff; and if he will make a statement. [247075]

Mr. Hanson: The current qualification arrangements for probation staff are under review with the intention of introducing a new framework later this year. These proposals will be subject to formal consultation. Training for probation staff is a high priority and this will be reflected in the new requirements.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new schools he estimates will be opened by March *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011 and *(d)* 2012 through the (i) Building Schools for the Future programme, (ii) Further Education programme and (ii) Primary Education programme; and how these estimates differ from those made before the announcement of capital spending being brought forward made in the pre-Budget report. [247840]

Jim Knight: Our current predictions go as far as 2010-11 in line with the current Spending Review.

50 schools have now opened through BSF. Our current predictions suggest that 112 BSF schools will open in 2009-10 and 165 schools in 2010-11.

In addition to these, through the Learning and Skills Council's capital programme, current predictions are that a further eight new school sixth forms are due to complete this year, 15 in 2009-10, and a further eight in 2010-11.

Management of the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) is largely delegated to local authorities, but we have derived estimates from authorities' plans, as follows:

PCP	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Total*
New Schools	3	16	15	34
New Rebuilt Schools	12	62	93	167
Total	15	78	108	201

The capital spend that is being brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10 relates to local authority devolved capital funding. It has no effect on Building Schools for the Future or on schools sixth forms. The returns received from local authorities so far indicate that the funding brought forward will be used to improve and extend existing schools at an earlier date than previously possible, rather than to build new schools which would take longer to procure. In some authorities, some of the primary programme capital expenditure may also be

brought forward, but we do not expect that to affect the number of new schools built.

Children: Protection

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government has taken to protect children in schools from abuse in the last 12 months. [247934]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to improving safeguards for children and have taken a range of actions over the past year. This includes making significant progress towards the implementation of the new vetting and barring scheme, which will further strengthen the system for preventing unsuitable adults from working with children, including in schools. In October 2008 Sir Roger Singleton, chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, was asked to lead a review of safeguarding arrangements in independent school, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The review will examine the practical operation of the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding arrangements that apply to independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools in the maintained, non-maintained and independent sectors in England. Sir Roger expects to conclude his work in February 2009.

In April 2008, Ministers wrote to local authorities and schools to remind them of their responsibilities in relation to the issue of forced marriage and of the materials and guidance already available. In June new materials on forced marriage were launched specifically for schools and for young people. These were sent to all secondary schools, pupil referral units, local authorities and Local Safeguarding Children Boards. New statutory guidance on forced marriage was launched on 25 November.

Within schools, staff have powers to bar people from their premises if they consider them a threat or a nuisance. The DCSF, in addition, has an ongoing programme of work to prevent and tackle the bullying of children. This includes a suite of overarching and specialist guidance for schools under the title "Safe To Learn" which advises schools on preventing and tackling bullying related to race, religion, special educational needs, disability, homophobia and cyberbullying. New guidance on out-of-school bullying is to be launched in February 2009. The Department is also funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to ensure this work is embedded in schools effectively.

Children's Centres: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the project to look at benchmarking systems already in use in local authorities and children's centres and to judge the feasibility of a system for Sure Start Children's Centres along the lines of the system used in schools; and if he will make a statement. [247464]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities have a range of different benchmarking systems. Hedra Ltd. were commissioned in August 2008 to undertake a feasibility study looking at the potential for designing a national benchmarking system for Sure Start Children's Centres, similar to that introduced for schools. They are currently finalising their report which will be published shortly.

Education: Assessments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the revised rules on skills tests under the Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 have been implemented. [247274]

Jim Knight: The rules specified in the Education (Specified Work and Registration) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended in 2007) are in force. It is the responsibility of employers to check the qualifications of teachers to ensure that they can work lawfully in a maintained school or non-maintained special school. As a result of 2007 amendments, from 1 September 2008 those who have completed initial teacher training but have not been awarded qualified teacher status, because they have not passed all the skills tests, cannot lawfully be employed as teachers.

Forced Marriage: Research

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what tendering process was undertaken by his Department before contracting the National Centre for Social Research to conduct research on forced marriage; which organisations were *(a)* informed of and *(b)* invited to tender for the contract; and what the (i) cost, (ii) timetable and (iii) terms of reference of the research are. [247671]

Beverley Hughes: This research was commissioned through a fair and open procurement process in line with the Department's protocols and in consultation with the Forced Marriage Unit.

(a) Expressions of interest to conduct the research were invited through notification on the Department's research website www.dcsf.gov.uk/research placed on 1 October 2008 with a closing date of 20 October.

(b) Expressions of interest were received from 13 organisations and these were then assessed by DSCF officials against published criteria. As a result, six of these 13 organisations were invited to submit full tenders (with a closing date of 18 November).

The organisations chosen to submit full tenders were:

Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion in partnership with the Henna Foundation and the Family and Parenting Institute

Ethnos Research and Consultancy

Centre for Rights, Equalities and Justice at the Institute of Education, University of London

National Centre for Social Research in partnership with Dr. Nazia Khanum

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 635-36W, on general certificate of secondary education, which qualifications other than GCSEs were included as equivalents. [240584]

Jim Knight: All level 2 qualifications approved under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act (2000) contribute towards the reported performance at key stage 4.

Some of the most prevalent qualifications at each level of study are given as follows:

GCSE in Vocational Subjects
GNVQs
Entry Level Qualifications
VRQ
Key Skills
NVQ
Basic Skills
BTEC First Diploma
BTEC First Certificate
FSMQs
AS Level
Vocational AS Level

For a more exhaustive list of equivalent qualifications and the size of their contributions can be found at QCA's National Database of Accredited Qualifications website at:

http://www.ndaq.org.uk

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the 2008 GCSE results for secondary schools will be published. [247035]

Jim Knight: The secondary school (GCSE and equivalent) achievement and attainment tables for 2007-08 were published on 15 January at 9:30 am.

They were published at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools less than 25 per cent. of pupils aged 16 achieved the equivalent of five GCSEs at grades A* to C in 2008. [247476]

Jim Knight: This information was published on Wednesday 14 January at 9:30 a.m. in the following Statistical First Release (SFR):

DCSF: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2007-08 (Revised)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml

Figures relating to GCSEs and equivalent are reported for all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.

Head Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Future Leaders pilot; and if he will make a statement. [247460]

Jim Knight: To build on the successes to date of the Future Leaders pilot, the Children's Plan set out our commitment to expand the programme to other urban areas. In 2009, we will extend it to the West Midlands and Merseyside and to Yorkshire and the North East in 2010. By 2011, it is expected that there will be over 500 Future Leaders in urban challenging schools across the country, working together to improve outcomes for children and lead system change.

Home Access Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress of the Home Access Taskforce in devising sustainable approaches towards ensuring that all pupils enjoy home access to personal technology by 2011; and if he will make a statement. [247200]

Jim Knight: The Home Access Taskforce concluded its work in June 2008 and was reported in July 2008. The report is available at:

http://news.becta.org.uk/display.cfm?resID=38386.

The Government responded to the task force's recommendations on 23 September 2008 when the Prime Minister announced the provision of £300 million for a programme to support Home Access for one million learners in low income families which Becta was asked to deliver.

Last October it was announced that the launch of local authority pilots in Oldham and Suffolk to allow the development of a detailed scheme for national rollout. They will become operational at the end of February 2009. In addition, the Department and Becta have taken action to support those learners for whom the local authority is their corporate parent.

We have so far made available £17.8 million capital funding to 109 local authorities which will benefit over 20,000 learners over the next few months. We expect to roll the grant scheme out nationally in late 2009 and will embed the rollout of technology within a programme to support parents, schools and local authorities in understanding the benefits of having technology available at home and how to make the best use of it.

Mathematics

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mathematics national strategy consultants (NSCs) are employed by local authorities on *(a)* permanent, *(b)* annual and *(c)* termly contracts; and what conditions there are in contracts of each type on publication and retention by NSCs of intellectual property rights to their work. [247331]

Jim Knight: There are 236 Primary and 173 Secondary National Strategies (NSCs) mathematics consultants nationally. As local authority employees their terms and conditions are determined locally and there are no central records of the proportion of consultants on full-time, part-time, permanent or fixed term arrangements.

We have no information on the degree to which specific consultant contracts reference intellectual property rights, and what those terms might be. However, all of the National Strategies centrally or regionally produced materials are Crown Copyright, and are freely available to National Strategies consultants, teachers, and other practitioners. Any materials produced by local authority consultants will be subject to the terms of any intellectual property clause in their contract with the local authority.

Mathematics: Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching of Mathematics in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [247400]

Jim Knight: The funding for the National Centre for Excellence in Teaching of Mathematics for 2008-09 is £4,822,854 (including VAT). The corresponding sum for 2007-08 was £4,905,613 (including VAT).

National Curriculum Tests

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what powers were *(a)* requested by and *(b)* granted to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority in relation to the oversight of the 2009 Key Stage 2 tests; and if he will make a statement. [248016]

Jim Knight: No such powers were requested by or granted to QCA. We are bringing forward legislation in the current Session to establish the new Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) with responsibility for the administration and oversight of national curriculum (NC) assessment. The legislation will also establish Ofqual as an independent regulator of exams and tests. The legislation will for the first time give Ofqual specific powers to regulate national curriculum tests. Ofqual will be closely monitoring and reporting on the delivery of the 2009 tests. Further information on Ofqual's monitoring of the 2009 tests is available in Ofqual's response to the Sutherland Inquiry which is available at:

www.ofqual.gov.uk

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average funding per pupil was in each local education authority in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [247312]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil for each local authority in England, and the England average, for 2008-09, are provided in the following table. The figures are for al funded pupils aged three-19 and are provided in cash terms:

2008-09	*DSG plus grants per pupil (£)*
England	4,690
Barking and Dagenham	5,270
Barnet	5,200
Barnsley	4,480
Bath and North East Somerset	4,430
Bedfordshire	4,410
Bexley	4,730
Birmingham	5,240
Blackburn with Darwen	5,040
Blackpool	4,620
Bolton	4,600
Bournemouth	4,300
Bracknell Forest	4,500
Bradford	4,870
Brent	5,700
Brighton and Hove	4,660
Bristol, City of	5,050
Bromley	4,590
Buckinghamshire	4,510
Bury	4,430
Calderdale	4,570
Cambridgeshire	4,280
Camden	6,910
Cheshire	4,430
Cornwall	4,340
Coventry	4,790
Croydon	4,910
Cumbria	4,430
Darlington	4,550
Derby	4,660
Derbyshire	4,450
Devon	4,280
Doncaster	4,630
Dorset	4,350
Dudley	4,510
Durham	4,730
Ealing	5,620
East Riding of Yorkshire	4,270
East Sussex	4,560
Enfield	5,100
Essex	4,450
Gateshead	4,740
Gloucestershire	4,370
Greenwich	6,260
Hackney	7,250
Halton	4,960
Hammersmith and Fulham	6,490
Hampshire	4,320
Haringey	5,940
Harrow	5,170
Hartlepool	4,830
Havering	4,670
Herefordshire	4,320
Hertfordshire	4,500
Hillingdon	4,990
Hounslow	5,380
Isle of Wight	4,660
Islington	6,660
Kensington and Chelsea	6,530
Kent	4,520
Kingston upon Hull, City of	4,870
Kingston upon Thames	4,850
Kirklees	4,650
Knowsley	5,080
Lambeth	6,780
Lancashire	4,520
Leeds	4,620
Leicester	4,860
Leicestershire	4,150
Lewisham	6,330
Lincolnshire	4,410
Liverpool	5,140
Luton	4,960
Manchester	5,440
Medway	4,600

2008-09	DSG plus grants per pupil (£)
Merton	5,010
Middlesbrough	4,960
Milton Keynes	4,710
Newcastle upon Tyne	4,840
Newham	5,970
Norfolk	4,410
North East Lincolnshire	4,850
North Lincolnshire	4,420
North Somerset	4,310
North Tyneside	4,520
North Yorkshire	4,440
Northamptonshire	4,360
Northumberland	4,400
Nottingham	5,330
Nottinghamshire	4,390
Oldham	4,820
Oxfordshire	4,410
Peterborough	4,790
Plymouth	4,540
Poole	4,250
Portsmouth	4,650
Reading	4,870
Redbridge	4,820
Redcar and Cleveland	4,750
Richmond upon Thames	4,750
Rochdale	4,900
Rotherham	4,730
Rutland	4,400
Salford	5,050
Sandwell	4,890
Sefton	4,590
Sheffield	4,650
Shropshire	4,240
Slough	5,130
Solihull	4,270
Somerset	4,350
South Gloucestershire	4,150
South Tyneside	4,910
Southampton	4,750
Southend-on-Sea	4,620
Southwark	6,650
St. Helens	4,640
Staffordshire	4,290
Stockport	4,410
Stockton-on-Tees	4,620
Stoke-on-Trent	4,800
Suffolk	4,320
Sunderland	4,680
Surrey	4,450
Sutton	4,810
Swindon	4,310
Tameside	4,560
Telford and Wrekin	4,510
Thurrock	4,700
Torbay	4,460
Tower Hamlets	7,350
Trafford	4,400
Wakefield	4,550
Walsall	4,700
Waltham Forest	5,330
Wandsworth	5,980
Warrington	4,320
Warwickshire	4,320
West Berkshire	4,570
West Sussex	4,370
Westminster	6,260
Wigan	4,510
Wiltshire	4,250
Windsor and Maidenhead	4,630
Wirral	4,630
Wokingham	4,360
Wolverhampton	4,940
Worcestershire	4,300
York	4,360

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.

Schools: Buildings

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of progress to date in regional pathfinders established under the Primary Capital programme. [247197]

Jim Knight: The Department has benefited enormously from the positive working relationship with the 23 regional pathfinders. They were particularly influential in helping to develop, test and refine the guidance we issued to local authorities in December 2007 on the requirement to develop and agree a Primary Strategy for Change. Most pathfinders have confirmed that they remain on track to complete their projects by the end of September 2009. They have also been very helpful in terms of developing and sharing good practice both nationally and regionally: the primary capital programme area of the teachernet website[4] currently includes a range of good practice examples and case studies developed by the pathfinders. Further materials will be added over the coming weeks.

Going forward, we will continue to work closely with pathfinders to ensure that the lessons learned in terms of design quality, sustainability and impact on outcomes informs the future development and roll out of the programme nationally.

Schools: Finance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what Supporting Schools Financial Management and Value for Money support seminars were held in 2008. [247462]

Jim Knight: The Department's Efficiency and Value for Money team held a series of interactive seminars aimed primarily at local authority education finance staff and auditors in October 2008. A total of six seminars were held; two in London and one each in Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Taunton.

The seminars covered a wide range of Value for Money for Schools issues, including the Financial Management Standard in School (FMSiS), strategic

planning, procurement, handling surplus school balances, the free consultancy advice day for schools, development of School Business Managers, and other recent issues related to improving Value for Money in schools.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the evaluation of the Financial Management standard in secondary schools was published. [247463]

Jim Knight: In April 2008 the Department commissioned Hedra to evaluate the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) with particular reference to secondary schools. The report and recommendations were published in full on 20 October 2008 at:

www.fmsis.info.

The report noted the achievement of 76 per cent. of secondary schools having met the standard by 31 March 2007. The Department is now in the process of implementing the recommendations in partnership with local authorities and schools.

Schools: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress made under the school efficiency measurement pilots; and if he will make a statement. [247203]

Jim Knight: The Department has made major developments to efficiency measures over recent years and research carried out in summer 2006 indicated that the measures currently used are effective in identifying schools which achieve high levels of performance from the resources available.

Building on these developments, the Department worked with three local authorities to pilot the use of efficiency benchmarking, thus strengthening the critical link between allocation of resources and pupil outcomes.

In light of the pilot it was agreed that roll out of the efficiency measurement tool in its existing form would not be appropriate. Refinements to the measures and alternative ways of presenting the results will be sought before measures are used on the Schools Financial Benchmarking website.

Good practice has been in Arizona and New York and further work to explore the benefits of these systems and to trial such measures with schools will take place over the coming year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many interim executive boards were established in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [247416]

Jim Knight: There were 27 Interim Executive Boards established in 2007 and 35 in 2008.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the findings contained in Ofsted's report on schools that have successfully emerged from special measures. [247458]

Jim Knight: Ofsted published "Sustaining improvement: the journey from special measures" in June 2008. We want to see more schools making the transformation from special measures to become either good or outstanding schools within one or two academic years. The report shows that if schools placed in special measures are willing to face up to the need for change and take appropriate action, they can improve very quickly and become outstanding schools.

Several common themes were identified as having a significant impact including strong leadership and setting high expectations, the creation of a school identity which takes in the views of all members of the school community and sustaining improvement by using honest and accurate self assessment.

The report recommended that the Department should ensure that schools clearly understand how any external support can contribute to school improvement and consider ways to capitalise on the experience and expertise of head teachers who have successfully made the journey from special measures to good or outstanding provision.

In partnership with local authorities, the Department ensures that support is carefully matched to each school's requirements and the National Strategies closely monitors the impact of the support provided. Wherever possible we use the experience of successful head teachers to inform policy developments.

Science: Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of project Enthuse in meeting its objectives. [247243]

Jim Knight: Project Enthuse bursaries have been available for teachers to attend continuing professional development courses at the National Science Learning Centre since October 2008. So far nearly 4,000 training days have been booked on Enthuse funded courses at the National Science Learning Centre for the academic year 2008-09.

This builds on the previous success of the National Science Learning Centre which was highlighted in the recent evaluation of the National Network of Science Learning Centres. The evaluation found that a 94 per cent. of teachers were satisfied with the service delivered by the National Science Learning Centre. A further evaluation has been commissioned.

Secondary Education

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools had *(a)* 1,500 or more and *(b)* 2,000 or more pupils in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [247311]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Secondary Education: Assessments

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of mainstream maintained secondary schools inspected by Ofsted in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2007 held end of year examinations

at the end of Year 7 in (i) English, (ii) mathematics, (iii) history, (iv) geography, (v) science and (vi) French. [247031]

Jim Knight: It is for individual schools to determine what arrangements they make for assessing pupils in Year 7, and information about those arrangements is not collected or held centrally.

Social Services: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children received support from children's social care in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [247003]

Beverley Hughes: Information on children receiving support from children's services is collected in the child level Children in Need (CIN) census. The latest information from the CIN census showed that there were 385,900 children in need in England in a sample week in February 2005.

The CIN census has been redeveloped into a continuous data collection. Initial information from the new census, which started in October 2008, will be collected in summer 2009 and published towards the end of the year.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps Paul Gray has taken to improve Doncaster children's services since his appointment as Interim Director of Children's Services in April 2008. [248696]

Beverley Hughes: Paul Gray does not report directly to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. In response to the inadequate judgments in Doncaster's 2008 annual performance assessment, Doncaster was informed on 9 January 2009 that I have instructed Department for Children, Schools and Families officials to commission a review to diagnose the underlying causes of inadequate performance in Doncaster's children's services. One of the outcomes of this review will be an assessment of steps that have been taken by Paul Gray and Doncaster to improve children's services since his appointment in April 2008, the extent to which these are sustainable and embedded, and whether these are sufficient to address satisfactorily those root causes of inadequate performance.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his officials will complete their diagnostic review of Doncaster's children's services; and whether their findings will be made public. [248697]

Beverley Hughes: In response to the inadequate judgments in Doncaster's 2008 annual performance assessment, Doncaster was informed on 9 January 2009 that Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) officials will commission a review to diagnose the underlying causes of inadequate performance in Doncaster's children's services. I expect the review to be completed by mid March 2009. The findings of the review will be made available shortly thereafter.

Social Services: Parents

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Parent Support Advisers there are in England. [247251]

Beverley Hughes: Parent Support Advisers (PSAs) are one of a range of professionals employed by schools, local authorities or other organisations to work in and across schools to support parents and help them to engage in their child's learning. They can help tackle pupil underachievement, remove barriers to learning and provide access to a full range of learning activities for parents.

Local authorities report that there are 2,254 PSAs (or equivalents) in post. These posts are funded through a variety of routes locally and this Government committed an additional £102.5 million between 2008 and 2011 to expand the availability of PSA support to parents.

Social Workers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the progress of the Children's Workforce Development Council in setting the baseline for developing a newly qualified status for children's social workers from September 2008; and if he will make a statement; [247277]

(2) how many pilots regarding a newly qualified status for social workers have been established; [247279]

(3) whether the planned *(a)* fast track entry and *(b)* progression route for social workers has been established; [247280]

(4) whether the planned graduate recruitment scheme for social workers has been established; [247281]

(5) whether his Department has developed the proposed campaign to attract people into social work; [247282]

(6) whether the planned remodelling pilots in regions with the most acute social work vacancy and turnover rates have been established. [247283]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has asked the Children's Workforce Development Council to deliver a programme of pilots to support social workers who work with children and families. This includes the Newly Qualified Social Worker pilot programme which is now running in 86 organisations. The first cohort of Newly Qualified Social Workers started on the programme, on time, in autumn 2008. The evaluators for the programme are in place and are currently collecting baseline data from participants and their employers. The first report from the evaluators is due in spring 2009.

The graduate recruitment scheme commenced in autumn 2008.

The fast track route and the marketing campaign are under development.

The Remodelling the Delivery of Social Work pilots commenced in spring 2008. The Regional Recruitment and Retention pilots in areas of the country with the most acute vacancy and turnover problems are still in development.

In the Children and Young People's Workforce Strategy 2020, the Government announced the establishment of a joint DCSF and Department of Health (DH) Social Work Taskforce as a crucial first step in a long-term programme to reform social work. At the same time, the Government announced Moira Gibb, Chief Executive of Camden council and a former social worker, as Task Force chair, and, as deputy chairs, Andrew Webb, Director of Children's Services, Stockport; and Bob Reitemeier, Chief Executive of the Children's Society. In discussion with the taskforce chair, the Secretaries of State for DCSF and DH are currently considering the membership of the taskforce and will announce the membership shortly.

Specialised Diplomas

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the 14 to 19 diplomas in widening access to higher education. [247238]

Jim Knight: Teaching of the first five diploma lines began in September 2008. The first advanced diploma holders to enter higher education are expected to do so in 2010, and so they have yet to apply. Diplomas have been developed for students of all abilities, but it is too early to assess the effectiveness of the diplomas in widening access, and indeed a full assessment would only be possible in the years after 2010 as diploma holder numbers grow.

Widening access is a key concern for higher education institutions, and their involvement in the design and delivery of diplomas has been and continues to be widespread and very welcome.

Specialist Schools Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* special schools joined the Specialist Schools programme in 2007-08. [247409]

Jim Knight: 138 mainstream schools and 57 special schools successfully applied to join the Specialist Schools Programme in the 2007-08 school year and were funded from September 2008. Full details of the schools are set out in the following table.

Mainstream schools

School name	*Local authority*	*Specialism*
Alfreton Grange Arts College	Derbyshire	Arts
Al-Hijrah Secondary School	Birmingham	Science
All Saints CE School	Stockton-on-Tees	Humanities
Allenbourn Middle School	Dorset	Sports
Alnwick Lindisfarne Middle School	Northumberland	Technology
Alnwick the Dukes Middle School	Northumberland	Music
Barnhill Community High School	Hillingdon	Sports
Bennerley Business and Enterprise College	Derbyshire	B and E
Blackheath Bluecoat Church of England Secondary School	Greenwich	M and C
Blakewater College	Blackburn with Darwen	M and C
Blythe Bridge High School	Staffordshire	Sports
Bow School	Tower Hamlets	M and C
Bradley Stoke Community School	South Gloucestershire	Arts and Language
Broomfield School	Enfield	Humanities
Cardinus School	North Yorkshire	Technology
Cardinal Newman Catholic School – a specialist arts and community college	Coventry	Arts
Carr Manor High School	Leeds	Sports
Carshalton High School for Girls	Sutton	Humanities and Arts
Castle Rock High School	Leicestershire	Sports
Charles Burrell High School	Norfolk	Humanities
Chatham South School	Medway	M and C
Chatsmore Catholic High School	West Sussex	Arts
Chingford Foundation School	Waltham Forest	Humanities and Arts
Coombe Boys' School	Kingston upon Thames	M and C
Corbridge Middle School	Northumberland	Arts
Cranborne Middle School	Dorset	Sports
da Vinci Community College	Derby	Technology
Danesfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Middle School	Somerset	Science
De La Salle School	Essex	Language
Dyson Perrins C of E High School	Worcestershire	Sports
Ellesmere Port Catholic High School	Cheshire	Humanities
Emmanuel Middle Church of England Voluntary Aided School	Dorset	Sports
Eskdale School	North Yorkshire	Technology
Fairfield High School	Bristol, City of	Arts
Farnham High School	Kirklees	Science and Humanities
Frederick Bremer School	Waltham Forest	Engineering
Glendale Middle School	Northumberland	Technology
Granville Community School	Derbyshire	Sports
Hampton College	Peterborough	Humanities
Harrold Priory Middle School	Bedfordshire	Arts
Harrow Way Community School	Hampshire	M and C
Hayward School	Bolton	Language
Hazeley School	Milton Keynes	Science
Hexham Middle School	Northumberland	Arts
Hind Leys Community College	Leicestershire	Arts
Hull Trinity House School	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	Engineering

Mainstream schools

School name	Local authority	Specialism
Humphrey Perkins High School	Leicestershire	Arts
Immanuel College	Bradford	Science
John Colet School	Buckinghamshire	Humanities
King David High School	Liverpool	Humanities
King Ethelbert School	Kent	Arts
Kings Grove School	Cheshire	B and E
Kings Langley School	Hertfordshire	Arts
Lanchurst High School	Leicestershire	Sports
Linscott Middle School	Bedfordshire	Arts
Little Ilford School	Newham	M and C and Arts
Littleborough High School for Boys	Tameside	B and E
Maltby Comprehensive School	Rotherham	B and E
Marlwood Community College	West Sussex	Science
Margaret Beaufort Middle School	Bedfordshire	Arts
Mark Rutherford Upper School and Community College	Bedfordshire	Arts
Market Bosworth High School and Community College	Leicestershire	Sports
Montagu School	Northamptonshire	Sports
Moorside High School	Salford	M and C
Moorside High School	Staffordshire	Science
Nether Stowe High School	Staffordshire	M and C
Newbridge High School	Leicestershire	Sports
North Axholme School	North Lincolnshire	Arts
Oriel High School	West Sussex	Arts
Our Lady and St. Bede RC School	Stockton-on-Tees	Arts
Overton Grange School	Sutton	Humanities
Parkfield High School	Wolverhampton	Language
Pewsey Vale School	Wiltshire	Arts
Priestnall School	Stockport	Sports
Prospect School	Reading	Sports
Quarrydale School	Nottinghamshire	Science
Ricards Lodge High School	Merton	Arts
Robert Bloomfield Middle School	Bedfordshire	Engineering
Rokeby School	Newham	M and C and Language
Rosemary Musker High School, Thetford	Norfolk	Technology
Roysia Middle School	Hertfordshire	M and C
Rye Community College	East Sussex	Arts
Salesian School, Chertsey	Surrey	M and C and Humanities
Seaburn Middle School	Northumberland	Music
Sexey's School	Somerset	Humanities
Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School	Warrington	Music
South Shields Community School	South Tyneside	B and E
St. Aloysius RC College	Islington	M and C
St. Bede's School	Surrey	Music
St. Bernard's Catholic School	Buckinghamshire	Science

Mainstream schools

School name	Local authority	Specialism
St. Cuthbert Mayne School	Torbay	Science and M and C
St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic High School, Rochdale	Rochdale	B and E
St. Edmund's Catholic School	Portsmouth	Humanities
St. George RC School	Westminster	Humanities and Business and Enterprise
St. Ivo School	Cambridgeshire	Humanities
St. John Fisher Catholic High School	Staffordshire	Humanities
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Voluntary-Aided Middle School	Northumberland	Arts
St. Mary's Catholic High School	Croydon	M and C
St. Mary's C of E High School	Barnet	Humanities
St. Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided Middle School, Col	Dorset	Sports
St. Patrick's RC Comprehensive School	Stockton-on-Tees	M and C
St. Philip Howard Catholic High School, The	West Sussex	Humanities
St. Thomas More Catholic School	Bedfordshire	Humanities
Stalham High School	Norfolk	Humanities
Tauheedul Islam Girls High School	Blackburn with Darwen	Humanities
The Archbishop's School	Kent	Humanities
The Community College, Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	Humanities
The Garendon High School	Leicestershire	Sports
The Gedling School	Nottinghamshire	Science
The Grange School	Buckinghamshire	B and E
The Greneway School	Hertfordshire	M and C
The Hewett School	Norfolk	Arts
The Lammas School	Waltham Forest	Sports
The Newlands Catholic School FCJ	Middlesbrough	M and C
The Queen Elizabeth's High School, Gainsborough	Lincolnshire	Language and Music
The Stonehenge School	Wiltshire	M and C
The Sutherland School	Telford and Wrekin	B and E
The Thomas Alleyne School	Hertfordshire	Science
The Wakeman School	Shropshire	Arts
Thomas Becket Catholic School	Northamptonshire	Sports
Thomas Percy Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Middle School	Northumberland	Science
Thrybergh Comprehensive School	Rotherham	Sports
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	Kent	Music
Upper Shirley High School	Southampton	M and C
Upton-by-Chester High School	Cheshire	Humanities

Mainstream schools

School name	*Local authority*	*Specialism*
Walderslade Girls' School	Medway	Humanities and Arts
Werneth School	Stockport	Arts
Westborough High School	Kirklees	B and E and Arts
Westergate Community School	West Sussex	Arts
Weston Road High School	Staffordshire	M and C
William Lovell Church of England School	Lincolnshire	Music
Wimbledon College	Merton	Science
Wingfield School	Rotherham	B and E
Winstanley Community College	Leicestershire	Sports
Wollaston School	Northamptonshire	Arts
Woodbrook Vale High School	Leicestershire	Arts
Wortley High School	Leeds	Arts
Yavneh College	Hertfordshire	B and E

Special schools

School name	*Local authority*	*Specialism*
Abbey Court Community Special School	Medway	SEN Cognition and Learning
Abbey School	Rotherham	Sports
Amwell View School	Hertfordshire	Sports
Brackenfield Special School	Derbyshire	SEN Cognition and Learning
Bradstow School	Wandsworth	SEN Communication and Interaction
Brookfield School	Herefordshire	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
Foxwood School	Kent	SEN Cognition and Learning
Garratt Park School	Wandsworth	M and C
Hall School	Norfolk	SEN Communication and Interaction
Heathlands School	Hertfordshire	SEN Sensory Physical
Heritage Park Community School	Sheffield	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
Holly Bank School	Kirklees	SEN Sensory Physical
James Brindley School	Birmingham	Arts
Kilton Thorpe School	Redcar and Cleveland	Arts
Knightsfield School	Hertfordshire	SEN Sensory Physical
Longcause Community Special School	Plymouth	Sports
Mapledown School	Barnet	SEN Cognition and Learning
Mary Rose School	Portsmouth	Sports
Meadow High School	Hillingdon	SEN Cognition and Learning
Meadowgate School	Cambridgeshire	SEN Sensory Physical
Muntham House School	West Sussex	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
Newfield School	Sefton	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
Northcott School	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	SEN Communication and
Northgate School	Northamptonshire	Arts
Oak Grove College	West Sussex	Arts
Oakfield Park School, Ackworth	Wakefield	SEN Cognition and Learning
Oaklands School	Hounslow	SEN Sensory Physical
Parkwood Hall School	Kensington and Chelsea	Arts
Percy Hedley School	North Tyneside	SEN Sensory Physical
Rowdeford School	Wiltshire	SEN Communication and Interaction
Rumworth School	Bolton	SEN Communication and Interaction
Saxon Hill School	Staffordshire	SEN Sensory Physical
Shepherd School	Nottingham	Sports
Springhead School	North Yorkshire	SEN Cognition and Learning
St. Anthony's School	West Sussex	SEN Communication and Interaction
St. Rose's Special School	Gloucestershire	SEN Sensory Physical
Stony Dean School	Buckinghamshire	SEN Communication and Interaction
Sutherland House School	Nottingham	SEN Communication and Interaction
Talbot Specialist School (for cognition and learning)	Sheffield	SEN Cognition and Learning
The Bridge at HLC	Telford and Wrekin	B and E
The Castle School	West Berkshire	SEN Communication and Interaction
The Delves School	Derbyshire	Sports
The Eresby School, Spilsby	Lincolnshire	SEN Cognition and Learning
The Gatehouse School	Milton Keynes	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
The Grantham Ambergate School	Lincolnshire	Sports
The Meadows School	Durham	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
The Milestone School	Gloucestershire	SEN Communication and Interaction
The Old Park School	Dudley	SEN Communication and Interaction
The Parkside School, Norwich	Norfolk	SEN Communication and Interaction
The Phoenix School	Lincolnshire	SEN Behaviour Emotional and Social
The Shrubberies School	Gloucestershire	SEN Cognition and Learning

Special schools

School name	*Local authority*	*Specialism*
The St Francis Special School, Lincoln	Lincolnshire	SEN Sensory Physical
Thomas Bewick School	Newcastle upon Tyne	SEN Communication and Interaction
Valence School	Kent	Sports
Walton Leigh School	Surrey	SEN Cognition and Learning
Wightwick Hall School	Staffordshire	B and E
Wyvern School	Dorset	SEN Cognition and Learning

Star Chamber Board

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the performance of the Star Chamber Board to date; what achievements the Board has made since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [247273]

Jim Knight: The Department's Star Chamber has been in existence for 10 years, and assesses requests for new or revised data collections, with the aim of ensuring that they are feasible, necessary, value for money and add as small a burden to the front line as possible. In 2006, the process was enhanced with the addition of an external panel comprising local authority and head teacher representatives.

The Star Chamber has performed a valuable role in ensuring burdens on schools and authorities are kept to a minimum, by scrutinising data collection plans. They have made an input into other, related, areas, including advising us about information that should be collected to inform the National Indicator Set. They have also input their views into how the Department's Simplification Plan can best fulfil the aim of cutting the data requests to the front line. In recognition of the balanced approach they have shown, the external panel have now been given the power to make the decisions about whether collection requests should go ahead.

Teachers: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress made under Teach First initiative; and if he will make a statement. [247286]

Jim Knight: Since it began in 2003, the programme has attracted over 1,000 graduates into teaching. The programme was extended to Manchester and the Midlands in 2007; to Liverpool in 2008 and will extend to Yorkshire in 2009. In June, the Prime Minister announced an expansion in the programme from 370 places per year in 2008/09 to 850 per year in 2013/14.

In its inspection report published in 2008, Ofsted reported very favourably on the teacher training provided by the programme; noting that some of the trainees were the best that it had seen in any inspections.

The Government support Teach First because it brings into teaching high quality, well-motivated graduates who would not otherwise have considered teaching. Teach First operates in challenging urban secondary schools that would normally struggle to recruit such high quality trainees.

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* private sector bodies and *(b)* university (i) education and (ii) mathematics faculties are taking part in the design of the courses that make up the continuing professional development contract put out by the National Centre of Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics and National Strategies. [247330]

Jim Knight: The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) does not directly provide training and development for teachers, it seeks to improve access to and quality assure mathematics continuing professional development. Working with the wider mathematics community, the NCETM facilitates, enhances and provides strategic direction and leadership for all aspects of continuing professional development in mathematics.

Since their inception, the national strategies (NS) have worked with a number of different partner organisations on various CPD materials and approaches. These are for local authorities (LA) to use with schools and are in the form of LA consultant training and course materials.

Currently on mathematics, the NS work with a number of stakeholders including NCETM, Universities' Council for the Education of Teachers (UCET) and the Advisory Committee for Mathematics Education (ACME). They are also working with Hull and Reading Universities' Initial Teacher Training departments, Edge Hill University and KPMG's Charitable Foundation, the Every Child a Chance Trust.

Young Offenders

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of inmates in young offender institutions previously had looked-after status in each of the last 10 years. [247856]

Beverley Hughes: Data on the number of young people in YOIs who have been looked after by local authorities earlier in their childhood are not collected centrally.

However, we can say that of the 59,500 young people looked after by local authorities at 31 March 2008, 130 were placed in a young offender institute (YOI) or prison. This is equivalent to 0.22 per cent. of the total number of looked after children.

The following table shows the data collected since 2004.

Year to 31 March	*Total number of looked after children*	*Number placed in YOI*
2004	61,200	140
2005	61,000	110
2006	60,300	140
2007	60,000	150
2008	59,500	130

These figures have been taken from table A3 of the latest Statistical First Release 'Children looked after in

England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008' which is available on the Department's website via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

Young People: Drugs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of people under the age of 25 years who used Class A drugs in 2007-08. [247481]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

There are two primary sources of statistics on the use of illicit drugs by young people: the British Crime Survey (which covers England and Wales) and the Drug use, Smoking and Drinking Survey among young people in England.

According to the 2007-08 British Crime Survey 7 per cent. of young people aged 16-24 reported using a class A drug in the last year.

Latest figures from the 2007 Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey show that 4 per cent. of pupils aged 11-15 years reported using class A drugs in the past year.

Young People: Smoking

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* males and *(b)* females under the age of 25 years who smoked tobacco in each of the last five years. [247483]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available in the exact format requested.

Information on smoking tobacco is not readily available. While information on smoking pipes and cigars is collected for those aged 16 and over the prevalence is very low among those aged below 25 and is collected separately to information on cigarette smoking, therefore overall prevalence of smoking tobacco is not available.

Information on the prevalence of smoking cigarettes among adults aged 16 to 19 and aged 20 to 24 in Great Britain, by gender in 2002 to 2006 is available from the "General Household Survey 2006: Smoking and drinking among adults, 2006". This information can be found in Table 1.1 on page 15. This publication is available in the Library.

Data on the prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults aged 16 to 19 and aged 20 to 24 in England, by gender, in 2002 to 2006 are available in "Statistics on Smoking: England, 2008", in Table 2.1, on page 14. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Information on the proportion of children (aged 11 to 15) in England, who were regular and who were occasional cigarette smokers, by gender, for 2002 to 2007 are available in, "Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2007" in Table 3.1, on page 116. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Youth Custody

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress the Youth Justice Board has made on a new safeguarding strategy for children and young people in the secure estate. [247393]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Justice Board (YJB), in collaboration with the National Children's Bureau, published A Review of Safeguarding in the Secure Estate on 15 December 2008. The Review recognised that much has already been done in respect to safeguarding young people in custody and made a number of recommendations. The YJB is working to develop a national safeguarding strategy for young people in the secure estate. As part of this programme, it is undertaking reviews in specific areas highlighted by the Review, including:

full searches (due for completion by February 2009)

single separation (due for completion by February 2009)

rewards and sanctions (due for completion 2010)

adjudications (due for completion 2010)

complaints (due for completion 2010)

Youth Services

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issued on the co-location of services for children and young people in 2008. [247193]

Beverley Hughes: The co-location of services is a useful way of providing a single point of access for children, young people and families, and a more effective and efficient way of professionals working together. While many areas are working hard to co-locate services and achieve the benefits this can bring, feedback suggests there are some barriers that are preventing services from co-locating as a matter of course. In response to this, we announced in the Children's Plan: One Year On progress report that we will be setting up a dedicated £200 million fund to support co-location of services. This fund will run from April 2009 and will assist local areas to move ahead rapidly on capital investment projects where the co-location of services will help join up work between professionals and promote better outcomes for children and young people.

To support local areas prepare high quality applications to this fund, and to promote ongoing co-location of services through existing capital investment programmes including Building Schools for the Future, we expect to issue additional guidance on co-location during the first half of this year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress the Youth Taskforce has made towards meeting its objectives; and if he will make a statement. [247248]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Taskforce was set up to improve outcomes for some of our most at risk and challenging young people. In March 2008, we launched the Youth Taskforce Action Plan, backed by a total funding package of £218 million. The Youth Taskforce is now working across the country to drive improved

local delivery of services and support for young people, ensuring that every local area has an effective approach to keep young people on track.

The Taskforce has made progress on all its objectives, including:

Establishing 'Challenge and Support' projects in 52 areas where youth crime and antisocial behaviour are a particular problem. These projects intervene quickly with young people involved in antisocial behaviour to tackle underlying causes of their behaviour, alongside enforcement action.

Establishing Intensive Intervention Projects in 20 areas. These pioneering projects use assertive key workers and support with sanctions to turn around the lives of the most challenging and problematic young people.

Training over 2,500 practitioners across the country through regional conferences and Roadshows.

Leading a programme of reform with local authorities to ensure every area has a systematic and joined up approach to prevention, early intervention and support for at risk teenagers.

Beginning delivery of the Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008, in particular supporting 69 local areas to implement promising approaches to youth crime prevention, including 'Operation Staysafe' and 'Street-based teams'.

Youth Services: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what ways his Department is working with external partners to introduce a common platform of skills and training for those across all sectors who work with young people; and in what ways it is working with such partners to develop new qualifications for support staff. [247186]

Beverley Hughes: The Children's Workforce Network (CWN) is managing the delivery of a programme of youth workforce reform through the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). CWDC engage with the relevant Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and key organisations in the youth sector, including the third sector, in order to develop, agree and lead the work. This programme of reform includes a set of measures to raise the level of skills and competencies of the workforce and provide a common platform of skills and training that rationalises and improves the existing arrangements for all staff including professionals and support workers. A common apprenticeship, a foundation degree and a youth professional status are all under development as important new components of the new skills framework for the youth workforce.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to provide opportunities for jobless people to learn new skills, with particular reference to the North East. [245866]

Mr. Simon: As part of the integrated approach to employment and skills, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and Jobcentre Plus in the North East are closely aligned to provide a range of opportunities for workless people. Through the Skills for Jobs strategy the main programmes are: The Sector Routeways Programme, providing accredited learning for those furthest from the labour market; the Personal Best Programme, which encourages long term unemployed people to learn skills through volunteer work on 2012 Olympics projects; and the Skills Solution Fund, to respond to local redundancies. An enhanced careers and advice service also provides more intensive support for workless people.

The LSC in the North East, and in the rest of England, delivers the legal right for all adults to get training up Level 2, and the guarantee of fee funding for every 18-25 year-old until they reach 25 or achieve Level 3 qualifications. Skills for Life literacy and numeracy learning—up to Level 2—are also free to the learner.

The LSC in the North East works closely with the public, private and voluntary sector partners through the regional employability framework. The framework represents a set of principles that bring together the LSC, Jobcentre Plus, local authorities the Regional Development Agency, and a range of other partners with a shared objective to get people back into work.

On 17 December 2008, the Secretary of State announced details of a £158 million package of enhanced skills support for people affected by the economic situation in England. Implementation of this package will happen at a regional level to ensure that support is tailored to local needs. Regional Ministers are co-ordinating the response, working closely with Directors from the LSC, including Chris Roberts, the Director for the North East, and Jobcentre Plus.

Apprentices: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in (i) London and (ii) the London Borough of Wandsworth in the academic year (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05, (C) 2005-06 and (D) 2006-07; and in what trades such apprenticeships were undertaken in each such year. [244624]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of apprenticeship starts and completions in London and Wandsworth local authority from 2003/04 academic year to 2006/07.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in London and Wandsworth local authority, 2003/04 to 2006/07

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
London				
Starts	11,850	12,360	11,010	11,090
Completions	2,050	3,190	5,280	6,250
Wandsworth local authority				
Starts	290	290	250	220
Completions	50	70	110	120

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Region and local authority is based on learner's home postcode.

Source:
Work Based Learning ILR data

Tables 2 and 3 show the number of apprenticeship starts and completions in London by groupings of Sector framework of Learning for 2003/04 to 2006/07.

Numbers for Wandsworth local authority are too small to split by Sector Framework of Learning.

Table 2: Apprenticeship Starts in London by Groupings of Sector Framework of Learning, 2003/04 to 2006/07

Framework grouping	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Accountancy	260	270	220	170
Active Leisure and Learning	—	—	370	290
Agriculture and Horticulture	50	50	40	50
Animal Care	50	60	40	30
Arts and Entertainment	10	30	—	—
Automotive Industry	860	960	80	50
Aviation	10	10	10	20
Bus and Coach	20	20	—	—
Business Administration	1,030	1,180	1,050	1,020
Call Handling	30	30	—	—
Carry and Deliver Goods	—	—	—	60
Children's Care Learning and Development/Early Years Care and Education	1,540	1,560	1,430	1,410
Community Justice	40	20	30	10
Construction	590	880	910	930
Contact Centres	—	—	40	20
Customer Service	980	890	950	1,000
Dental Nursing	—	—	70	90
Driving Goods Vehicles	10	10	10	10
Electricity Industry	40	40	20	10
Electrotechnical	590	500	540	590
Engineering (inc Construction Engineering)	250	290	270	250
Equine Industry	140	130	130	80
Floristry	—	—	10	10
Football Sporting Excellence	—	—	30	—
Gas Industry	70	140	130	70
Glass Industry	—	10	—	10
Hairdressing	1,470	1,500	1,330	1,320
Health and Beauty Therapy	60	60	90	100
Health and Social Care	200	210	140	120
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	140	180	230	210
Hospitality and Catering	800	540	420	410
Information Technology and Electronic Services	500	320	350	330
Insurance	—	20	30	—
International Trade and Services	10	10	—	—
Mail Services	—	—	40	20
Management	90	120	100	120
Manufacturing Operation—Engineering	—	10	—	—
Optical Advisor	—	—	20	20
Pharmacy	—	50	30	—
Plumbing	380	350	310	330
Printing	10	30	20	10
Property Services	—	—	20	10
Rail Industry (Engineering and Operations)	—	—	90	30
Residential Estate Agency	10	—	—	—
Retail	980	620	470	430
Sales and Telesales	—	—	10	20
Security Industry	30	60	90	210
Sporting Excellence	—	—	60	80
Sports and Recreation	320	420	—	—
Support Services in Healthcare	—	—	10	30
Telecommunications	40	70	70	70
Textiles	40	20	10	—
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	—	—	20	20
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	90	90	60	90
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	—	—	40	60
Vehicle Fitting	—	—	60	60
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair		—	—	410 630
Vehicle Parts Operations		—	—	20 40
Vehicle Sales		—	—	— 10

Table 2: Apprenticeship Starts in London by Groupings of Sector Framework of Learning, 2003/04 to 2006/07

Framework grouping	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Veterinary Nursing		—	—	50 60
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage		60	20	30 40
Youth Work		—	—	20 —
Unknown		50	560	— 20
Other		30	20	30 20
Total		11,850	12,360	11,010 11,090

"—" Indicates figures <5.

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Information is based on Sector Framework of Learning—some frameworks have been grouped together due to small numbers in order to provide consistent figures across years.

Source:

Work Based Learning ILR data

Table 3: Apprenticeship Completions in London by Groupings of Sector Framework of Learning, 2003/04 to 2006/07

Framework grouping	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Accountancy	50	160	130	130
Active Leisure and Learning	—	—	120	130
Agriculture and Horticulture	10	10	40	20
Animal Care	10	20	30	20
Arts and Entertainment, Cultural Heritage, Information and Library Services	10	—	10	10
Automotive Industry	140	210	410	390
Aviation	—	10	10	10
Business Administration	240	330	590	700
Children's Care Learning and Development/Early Years Care and Education	130	320	650	860
Construction	20	90	290	410
Contact Centres	—	—	20	30
Customer Service	210	310	440	560
Dental Nursing	—	—	—	40
Electrotechnical	140	200	240	210
Engineering (inc Construction Engineering)	80	80	130	110
Equine Industry	70	90	100	100
Gas Industry	50	70	120	80
Hairdressing	300	460	660	750
Health and Beauty Therapy	10	10	30	50
Health and Social Care	30	20	50	50
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	10	40	90	160
Hospitality and Catering	100	160	210	150
Information Technology and Electronic Services	130	130	270	180
Insurance	10	—	20	20
Mail Services	—	—	—	20
Management	20	30	40	80
Plumbing	20	50	150	160
Printing	10	10	—	—
Rail Industry (Engineering and Operations)	—	20	—	20
Retail	120	180	210	220
Sales and Telesales	—	—	—	—
Security Industry	10	10	20	110
Sporting Excellence	—	—	10	50
Sports and Recreation	40	70	—	—
Telecommunications	20	20	40	20
Transport Engineering and Maintenance	—	—	20	20
Travel and Tourism Services Leisure and Business	40	20	40	50
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	—	—	—	20
Vehicle Fitting	—	—	10	40
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	—	—	20	170
Veterinary Nursing	—	—	10	20
Wholesale, Distribution, Warehousing and Storage	10	10	10	20
Unknown	10	30	10	—

Table 3: Apprenticeship Completions in London by Groupings of Sector Framework of Learning, 2003/04 to 2006/07

Framework grouping	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
Other	20	30	50	70
Total	2,050	3,190	5,280	6,250

"—" Indicates figures <5.

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
3. Information is based on Sector Framework of Learning—some frameworks have been grouped together due to small numbers in order to provide consistent figures across years.

Source:

Work Based Learning ILR data

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people applying to university who were from an unskilled background went on to attend *(a)* their nearest university and *(b)* a university in the latest period for which information is available. [247132]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information, showing applicants by their socio-economic background, is shown in the table.

English domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses—year of entry 2007

		Of which: percentage accepted for entry at:	
Socio-economic classification:	*Applicants*	*Nearest HE institution*	*Elsewhere*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	60,438	2.9	82.8
Lower managerial and professional occupations	85,708	4.3	78.2
Intermediate occupations	39,770	5.5	75.4
Small employers and own account workers	21,024	5.5	75.7
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	12,735	5.9	76.2
Semi routine occupations	41,763	7.3	69.7
Routine occupations	17,133	8.3	70.1
Unknown	101,506	9.4	68.6
Total	380,077	6.2	74.6

Source:

UCAS

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many universities on average each *(a)* prospective student from an unskilled background and *(b)* other prospective student applied to enter in the latest period for which figures are available. [247133]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the table.

English domiciled applicants to full-time undergraduate courses: year of entry 2007

Socio-economic classification	*Average number of institutions applied to*
Higher managerial and professional occupations	4.86
Lower managerial and professional occupations	4.56
Intermediate occupations	4.33
Small employers and own account workers	4.39
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	4.34
Semi routine occupations	4.06
Routine occupations	4.03
Unknown	3.96
Total	4.35

Source:

UCAS

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of Universities and Colleges Admissions Services university applications were made online in each year since it has been possible to apply online. [247545]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the proportion of applications submitted through UCAS for each medium available since academic year 2003/04.

Proportion of applications submitted via each route through UCAS

Percentage

	Year of entry				
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Application route					
Electronic application system	30.0	24.9	12.2	0.6	0.0
Web	7.5	22.8	60.9	97.4	99.7
Paper	62.5	52.3	26.9	2.0	0.3

Note:

Electronic applications have been available since 2003/04. The Electronic Application system was the forerunner of the web system (applicants were able to submit their applications via a CD-ROM). Data for academic year 2008/09 is not yet available. *Source:*

UCAS.

Intellectual Property

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many of the Gowers Report recommendations have been implemented. [249461]

Mr. Lammy: Over half of the 54 recommendations made in the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property have already been completed. Immediate action was

taken in some areas such as the enactment of new powers for trading standards officers to search and seize copyright infringing goods. However in other areas it has been appropriate to carefully consider and work through the policy and legal issues sitting behind the recommendations. Work is continuing on the remaining recommendations and significant progress is being made.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* students and *(b)* undergraduates were studying (i) medicine, (ii) dentistry and (iii) subjects allied to medicine in each of the last five years, broken down by institution. [249113]

Mr. Lammy: The required numbers of doctors and dentists entering training are set having considered the future workforce requirements of the NHS.

For doctors, following an impressive expansion in medical student intake from 3,749 in 1997-98 to 6,194 in 2006-07, a decision was taken in July 2006 that no further expansion of medical school places is required at present. Medical student numbers will be kept under review taking account of the changing demographics of the workforces and the workforce requirements of the NHS.

The latest available figures will be placed in both Libraries. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available on 29 January 2009.

Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many non-EU students are expected to graduate from universities in England this year; and how many have so graduated in the last 10 years. [249390]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available figures are shown in the table. Figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available on 29 January 2009.

Projections for the number of non-EU qualifiers in the 2007/08 and 2008/09 academic years are not available.

Non-EU domiciled qualifiers[1] English higher education institutions academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	*Qualifiers*
1997/98	30,920
1998/99	30,665
1999/2000	31,375
2000/01	36,305
2001/02	41,395
2002/03	49,450
2003/04	61,820
2004/05	67,355
2005/06	72,005
2006/07	74,415

[1] From 2000/01 students qualifying from a dormant mode of study are included in the figures; they are excluded in all previous years. Incoming exchange students are excluded from the figures from 2000/01 onwards; they were included in all previous years. Figures cover qualifiers from all levels of study.

Note:
Figures use the qualifications obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Shipping: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans are in place to *(a)* develop training schemes for people who wish to join the shipping industry and *(b)* improve employment prospects for seafarers at the end of their training. [244733]

Mr. Simon: The Maritime Skills Alliance is the standard setting body for the shipping industry, and works with the Learning and Skills Council as a key stakeholder. The marine industry have apprenticeships that encompass a wide range of skills and pathways. These include pathways for those navigating and driving ships, as well as engineering, electronics, boat building and maintenance. Colleges and training providers that offer skills training also have a role in highlighting employment prospects for trainees. With about 95 per cent. of Britain's trade arriving and leaving by sea, there will be a continuous demand for skilled seafarers.

Students: Part-Time Employment

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of undergraduate students who were in part-time work in the *(a)* first year, *(b)* second year, *(c)* third year and *(d)* fourth year of their degree courses during the last 12 months, broken down by (i) socio-economic group and (ii) number of hours worked per week. [249117]

Mr. Lammy: Most recent estimates of the proportion of students undertaking paid work come from the 2004/05 Student Income and Expenditure Survey. This was a comprehensive study on student income, expenditure, borrowing and debt.

Table 1 shows the proportion of students who undertook paid work during the academic year 2004/05 by socio-economic group and year of study. Table 2 shows the hours worked on average among these students.

Updated statistics will be available when the 2007/08 Student Income and Expenditure Survey is published early this year.

Table 1: Proportion of students undertaking paid work during term-time

Year of study	*Socio-economic group*	*Proportion undertaking paid work (percentage)*
First year	Managerial/ professional	55
	Intermediate	64
	Routine/manual	61
	All socio-economic groups	58
Second/ intermediate years	Managerial/ professional	60
	Intermediate	58
	Routine/manual	64
	All socio-economic groups	60

Table 1: Proportion of students undertaking paid work during term-time

Year of study	Socio-economic group	Proportion undertaking paid work (percentage)
Final year/one-year course only	Managerial/ professional	49
	Intermediate	47
	Routine/manual	58
	All socio-economic groups	50
All years	Managerial/ professional	55
	Intermediate	55
	Routine/manual	61
	All socio-economic groups	56

Note:
Coverage—English domiciled full-time undergraduate students studying in England and Wales.
Source:
Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05

Table 2: Average number of hours worked per week by year of study

Year of study	Mean hours worked per week
First year	13.8
Second/intermediate years	12.3
Final year/one-year course only	14.7
All years	13.6

Note:
Coverage—English domiciled full-time undergraduate students studying in England and Wales, who undertook continuous paid employment during term-time.
Source:
Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2004/05

Vocational Training: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were entered for each publicly-recognised vocational qualification in the last year for which figures are available. [247128]

Mr. Lammy: We do not hold enrolment data on publicly recognised vocational qualifications. Data on achievements of vocational qualifications are available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000773/index.shtml

National Internship Scheme

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many places he plans to provide under the national internship scheme; [248876]

(2) which organisations his Department has invited to participate in the national internship scheme; and which have agreed to offer graduates places under the scheme; [248880]

(3) how many places he expects there to be in the national internship scheme in each local authority area. [248881]

Mr. Lammy: The introduction of an internship offer is part of this Government's overall package to support individuals through the economic downturn. The intention here is for unemployed graduates to have the opportunity to spend three months with an employer in either the private, public or third sector to apply their learning in the workplace and build the work-ready skills they will need for permanent employment. It is still early days and specific details are currently being worked out in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to ensure that graduates based in rural areas have access to the new national internship scheme. [248198]

Mr. Lammy: As part of its overall package to support individuals through the economic downturn, the Government are considering new internship opportunities for unemployed graduates. We expect to offer graduates the opportunity to spend three months with an employer in either the private, public or third sector to apply their learning in the workplace and build the work-ready skills they will need for permanent employment. It is still early days and the details will be carefully worked out in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders. We will ensure that the position of graduates in rural areas is taken into account.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bangladesh: Human Rights

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to enter into discussions with the new government of Bangladesh on human rights in that country. [248155]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the commitment of the newly elected government in its election manifesto to ensure the impartiality of the judiciary, stop judicial killings and strengthen and make effective Bangladesh's newly-formed Human Rights Commission. We look forward to seeing progress on all these issues and will make human rights a priority in our engagement with the government. We plan to play an active role in the Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh's human rights record at the UN Human Rights Council in February and are offering practical assistance to the country's Human Rights Commission.

British Overseas Territories: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for the Overseas Territories Programme Fund is for 2008-09; and how much was spent from the fund in each of the last five years. [247706]

Gillian Merron: The budget for the Overseas Territories Programme Fund for 2008-09 is £6.5 million.

The fund spent the following amounts in the last five years:

	£ million
2007-08	6.6
2006-07	4.5

	£ million
2005-06	4.4
2004-05	3.0
2003-04	3.1

Carbon Emissions: EU Action

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to his remarks on a durable funding mechanism for carbon capture and storage (CCS) of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 416, if he will *(a)* place in the Library a copy of the background papers supporting this initiative and *(b)* place in the Library and publish on the appropriate departmental website a copy of the full proposals for the CCS funding mechanism once it has been considered at the European Council meeting to which he made reference. [244119]

Gillian Merron: The compromise text resulting from the agreement at the European Council, as drafted by the French presidency, has still to undergo a vote in Plenary in the European Parliament, so it would be inappropriate to publish it at present. Should the European Parliament adopt the proposals as drafted, they will be published by the Commission in due course. Following publication we will place a copy in the Library.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Natural Resources

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects the Government is undertaking with the provincial government of Katanga in Democratic Republic of Congo and with mining companies to improve transparency in the award of contracts for resource extraction. [242771]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

The UK Government are in discussions with the provincial Government of Katanga, three international mining companies and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) about a joint development initiative to improve operating standards and capacity in the provincial mining sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to ensure that local people benefit from Katanga's mineral wealth. One of the aims of the initiative will be to improve transparency in the mining sector by, for example, linking to implementation of the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI) in the province. However, the initiative will not directly address the award of new mining contracts in DRC. The initiative is currently in the planning phase and we expect to begin implementation later this year. We understand the World Bank may include strengthening national government capacity to negotiate mining contracts as part of their planned mining sector reform programme.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department appointed a senior information risk owner in accordance with the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government and the accompanying document Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action; when the appointment was made; and what grade the person holds within the Department. [245362]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) chief information officer is the Department's senior information risk owner and is a member of the FCO Board. The present incumbent took up his appointment to both roles in March 2007.

Departmental Energy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of energy it wastes. [244610]

Gillian Merron: The Government's Delivery Plan for 'Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate', published in August 2008, provides a full account of the initiatives departments are taking to reduce their energy waste. The Government have committed to updating the Delivery Plan on a six monthly basis, and the first update was published on 18 December. Further details of sustainable operations in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) can be found on page 111 of the 2007-08 FCO departmental report

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/departmental-report/part2/change-programmes/.

Since the publication of the departmental report, the FCO has used information obtained for display energy certificates and external ISO 14001 audits to further improve energy efficiency. A hundred overseas posts are introducing an environmental management system which includes measures to improve energy efficiency. This scheme will be rolled out to further posts later this year. Our current information technology infrastructure is being replaced by a system with advanced power saving settings which should also offer a significant energy saving.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 336-7W, on Government Departments: information and communications technology, which IP addresses are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* computers in the offices of its (i) Ministers, (ii) communications officials and (iii) special advisers. [241952]

Gillian Merron: To help defend against electronic attack, it is standard information security practice not to publish internal internet protocol (IP) addresses. When accessing internet websites, the IP addresses of all of the computers on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's internal office IT system are hidden behind publicly available IP addresses; including 195.92.40.49 and 62.25.106.209. These IP addresses are shared with other Government Departments that use the Government Secure Intranet.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the members of the internal selection board for appointing heads of mission for his Department are; in what region of the UK each was born; what the *(a)* gender and *(b)* ethnic balance is of members of the board; and whether any have publicly declared their sexual orientation. [244254]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 858W, on the membership of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) selection boards.

Two members of the number one selection board are female; the other five members and the chair are male. The chair and five members of the number two selection board are female; there are 17 male members. The chair and one other member of the Band D selection board are female; the other three members are male. All are white. The FCO does not collect data on the sexual orientation of its staff. The regions of birth of the members of each selection board are as follows:

Number one selection board:

West Midlands
Suffolk
London
Leicestershire
Lancashire
Bedfordshire
West Lothian

Number two selection board:

Greater Manchester
London
Teesside
Leicestershire
Middlesex
Merseyside
North Yorkshire
Surrey
Hampshire
Cambridgeshire
Scotland
Buckinghamshire
USA
Italy

Band D board:

Northern Ireland
North Yorkshire
Surrey
Bedfordshire

EC Common Foreign and Security Policy

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the working papers drafted to frame discussion of EU-US affairs for the informal meetings of EU foreign ministers in September and November 2008. [244466]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The EU presidency drafted a paper to focus discussion on various aspects of the EU-US relationship for both the informal EU Foreign Ministers' meetings in September and November 2008. Those present at the meetings agreed that the paper would not be published. Therefore I am unable to place a copy of the paper in the Library.

Embassies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total running cost of the British embassy in *(a)* Ottawa, *(b)* Washington, *(c)* Beijing, *(d)* Tokyo, *(e)* Sydney, *(f)* Johannesburg and *(g)* Delhi was in each of the last five years. [242548]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts overseas derive income from visa fees and consular services, and incur expenditure in running costs, programme and capital expenditure. The figures in the table represent the net running costs of missions calculated by deducting income from expenditure figures. Fluctuations in the figures from one year to another can result from changes in income from visa fees as well as increases or decreases in post expenditure. Increased expenditure in Ottawa in 2004-05 is attributed to higher than usual Programme Expenditure of £4.6 million in that year.

	£
British High Commission in Ottawa	
2007-08	1,051,522
2006-07	1,860,048
2005-06	3,637,752
2004-05	6,925,934
2003-04	3,226,134
British embassy in Washington	
2007-08	16,759,412
2006-07	15,971,542
2005-06	19,659,809
2004-05	21,688,037
2003-04	12,651,704
British embassy in Beijing	
2007-08	13,285,479
2006-07	15,323,426
2005-06	15,339,366
2004-05	14,845,172
2003-04	14,010,319
British embassy in Tokyo	
2007-08	14,780,460
2006-07	19,497,202
2005-06	16,341,603
2004-05	20,337,900
2003-04	19,297,814
Consulate-General in Sydney	
2007-08	2,556,714
2006-07	1,987,297
2005-06	2,947,774
2004-05	2,659,800
2003-04	2,181,639
Trade and Investment Office in Johannesburg	
2007-08	1,895,417
2006-07	1,900,192

	£
2005-06	2,247,555
2004-05	1,992,664
2003-0	1,984,646
British High Commission in New Delhi	
2007-08	7,355,000
2006-07	[1]
2005-06	15,553,352
2004-05	19,987,080
2003-04	14,698,818

[1] Data not accessible

European Union: Civil Servants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff served in the UK Permanent Representation to the EU in each year since 1997, broken down by payband. [242055]

Gillian Merron: The following table records the number of staff working at UK representation to the EU in financial years from 2005 to 2008. We do not hold data from before this date centrally. This information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

EC representation to the EU (Brussels)

Date	*FCO grade*	*Civil service equivalent*	*Number of staff*
1 April 2008	A1	AA	0
	A2	AO	4
	B1	EO	5
	C4	HEO	20
	C5	SEO	4
	D6	7	30
	D7	6	7
	SMS1	SCS	0
	SMS2	SCS	2
	SMS3	SCS	1
	SMS4	SCS	1
	Total		83
1 April 2007	A1	AA	0
	A2	AO	9
	B1	EO	3
	C4	HEO	18
	C5	SEO	2
	D6	7	32
	D7	6	5
	SMS1	SCS	9
	SMS2	SCS	2
	SMS3	SCS	1
	SMS4	SCS	1
	Total		78
1 April 2006	A1	AA	0
	A2	AO	8
	B1	EO	2
	C4	HEO	16
	C5	SEO	3
	D6	7	34
	D7	6	4
	SMS1	SCS	7
	SMS2	SCS	2
	SMS3	SCS	1
	SMS4	SCS	1
	Total		78
1 April 2005	A1	AA	0
	A2	AO	12
	B1	EO	2
	C4	HEO	27
	C5	SEO	4
	D6	7	34
	D7	6	4
	SMS1	SCS	8
	SMS2	SCS	2
	SMS3	SCS	1
	SMS4	SCS	1
	Total		95

India: Christianity

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of India on reported violence against Christians in Orissa; and if he will make a statement. [244379]

Bill Rammell: We are deeply concerned by the recent reports of attacks against Christians in Orissa. There can be no justification for such violent attacks against innocent people. On 1 October 2008, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown raised the matter with the Indian High Commissioner. On 17 October, he also discussed our concerns with Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of External Affairs, and Mohammed Quereshi, chairman of the Minorities Commission in New Delhi. We understand that the Indian government fully recognises the seriousness of these incidents and is engaged with the Orissa State authorities in restoring law and order to that region.

International Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reduction has been made in his Department's funding for public diplomacy as a result of its Allocative Efficiencies programme, as referred to on page 27 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [240262]

David Miliband: As a result of the Allocative Efficiencies programme the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has reduced the programme funding for public diplomacy by £9.09 million in financial year 2008-09 and a further £4.91 million in financial year 2009-10.

Iran

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent changes there have been to the Government's policy on Iran. [240126]

Bill Rammell: The Government remain very concerned by Iran's actions in the region, over the nuclear issue, and on human rights. We continue to pursue the dual track strategy to encourage Iran to comply with the demands of the international community concerning its nuclear programme: sanctions to persuade it to come to the negotiating table, and the offer of engagement leading to full negotiations through the E3 +3 process.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Leigh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Kurdistan Democratic Party to ensure the return of all Christian-owned land and houses misappropriated by the Kurds. [246819]

Bill Rammell: There are currently internal Iraqi processes under way to resolve Iraq's disputed internal boundaries, with technical support provided by the United Nations, which we monitor closely.

As I said in the Westminster Hall Adjournment debate on the Christians of Iraq on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 44WH, I hope to discuss how land and property disputes can best be resolved in the border areas between the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the rest of Iraq with ministerial interlocutors from the Government of Iraq and the KRG, at the next appropriate opportunity.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations on allegations of (i) the use by Hamas of human shields in Gaza and (ii) the storage of weapons by Hamas among women and children in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [247984]

Bill Rammell: We condemn all abuse of innocent civilians. UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which was proposed by the UK, was emphatic in its condemnation of all violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Palestinian Authority and *(b)* Hamas on seeking a lasting ceasefire in Gaza. [248154]

Bill Rammell: We are in close contact with the Palestinian Authority. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister spoke to President Abbas on 14 January.

We share the position of the Quartet concerning contacts with Hamas: that for such contacts to be useful Hamas should reject violence, recognise Israel and accept previous agreements. We are however in close contact with the Arab League and its members states. We support Egyptian engagement with Hamas in order to achieve an immediate and permanent ceasefire.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246345]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold statistics on how many former prisoners it employs.

We collect information on a candidate's spent convictions as part of our security vetting process but do not use it for selection purposes.

Information on the number of former prisoners employed by the FCO could only be obtained by checking the security vetting files of all FCO members of staff which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Pakistan

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK has offered any assistance to the authorities of Pakistan in connection with the investigation of the killing of Major-General Faisal Alavi. [245496]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]*: The investigation into Major-General Alavi's death is a matter for the Pakistani authorities. We do not normally interfere in another country's judicial proceedings, unless under special circumstances that country asks for our assistance. We do not normally have any consular involvement in cases concerning dual-nationals in their other country of nationality, except in cases where we judge there is a special humanitarian reason to do so, for example, cases involving minors, forced marriage or a conviction involving the death penalty, but even then only where the state of other nationality agrees. Our Commission would, however, be able to register interest in the case with local authorities if contacted by the family of Major-General Alavi.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held discussions with the authorities of Pakistan on the death of Major-General Faisal Alavi. [245487]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]*: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor UK officials have held any such discussions.

Passports: Offenders

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what circumstances UK nationals who are fugitives from justice can have their passports renewed by UK consulates overseas *(a)* generally and *(b)* in Northern Cyprus; and if he will make a statement. [245220]

Caroline Flint: The Identity and Passport Service (IPS), a Home Office Agency, has the lead on the policy on who does or does not get a British passport. As long as the IPS have been notified of a fugitive from justice, there are specific procedures in place to ensure any such applicant for a British passport is properly scrutinised and relevant UK authorities are consulted on the decision to issue or not. These procedures apply across the world, including in northern Cyprus.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Sri Lanka on the arrest and trial of those responsible for the killing of local aid workers from the organisation Action Contre La Faim in August 2006. [245299]

Bill Rammell: The UK has expressed clearly to the Government of Sri Lanka that it is vital for the perpetrators of this crime to be brought to justice following a thorough and credible investigation. In a debate in the House on 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1344, I spoke of the murder of 17 'Action Contre La Faim' workers in 2006 as an example of the failure to investigate and prosecute those alleged to be responsible for human rights abuses. We have consistently called on all parties to the conflict to abide by all obligations under International Humanitarian Law.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports his Department has received on the treatment of international non-governmental organisations in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [243831]

Bill Rammell: In September 2008, the UN and all international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) working in the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam-controlled Vanni were asked to withdraw as the Government of Sri Lanka could not assure their safety. INGOs are currently working in a challenging environment and in recent months there have been instances of attacks on INGO staff members. Our high commission in Colombo regularly urges the Sri Lankan Government to allow INGOs full access to the Vanni and encourages them to ensure adequate protection for all non- governmental organisation workers.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received on the alleged use of cluster bombs by the government of Sri Lanka in the Vanni region; and if he will make a statement. [243832]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of claims about the use of cluster munitions by the Sri Lankan military. The ongoing military hostilities and the lack of independent information coming from northern Sri Lanka make it difficult to verify these claims. We have raised this issue with the Sri Lankan Government who have denied the use of such munitions by their military in any operations. The use of cluster munitions in general is of serious concern to the UK.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the human rights situation in the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [243833]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned about the human rights situation in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. Sporadic attacks between groups continue. We welcome the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP), central Government and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) setting out a three month action plan for the release of all TMVP child soldiers. The UK continues to encourage all authorities in the east to pursue a peaceful and democratic path.

Sweden: British Overseas Citizenship

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals have taken up residence in *(a)* Sweden and *(b)* Denmark in each of the last five years. [245264]

Caroline Flint: Figures from the Swedish and Danish national statistics offices show that the number of UK nationals resident in each country over the last five years were as follows:

(a) Sweden

	Number
2004	16,428
2005	16,798
2006	17,175
2007	17,788
2008	18,486

(b) Denmark

	Number
2004	12,724
2005	12,830
2006	12,894
2007	13,183
2008	13,729

These figures are the net UK nationals resident in Sweden and Denmark each year. There are no published statistics for the number of UK nationals taking up residence each year in either Sweden or Denmark.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK nationals are engaged in full-time study in *(a)* Swedish and *(b)* Danish universities. [245269]

Caroline Flint: The latest figures available from the Swedish and Danish authorities show that *(a)* there were 482 UK nationals engaged in full-time study at Swedish universities in 2006-07; and *(b)* there were 338 UK nationals engaged in full-time study at Danish universities in 2008.

Tourists: Illness

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens have died while on holiday overseas in each of the last five years; and how many died in each EU member state in each such year. [243773]

Gillian Merron: Given the volume of information, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy in the Library of the House.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from UK organisations on the provision of health care for British citizens who are taken ill while on holiday overseas. [243774]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* We have received no representations from UK organisations on the provision of health care for British citizens taken ill while on holiday overseas.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has put in place to support the families of those whose relatives *(a)* are taken ill and *(b)* die while on holiday overseas. [243775]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Consular staff in London, and around the world, can offer advice and support to the families of those whose relatives are either taken ill or die while they are overseas. In the case of illness or injury, with the individuals' permission, we can inform family and friends when a British national has been hospitalised, keep them up to date with developments and help transfer money from friends or relatives in the UK to meet any necessary costs.

In the event of a death overseas, we ask the UK police to contact the next of kin as soon as possible. Consular staff do their best to ensure that the family's wishes are carried out, for example, regarding burial, cremation or bringing the body home. We can put the family in touch with local lawyers and local and international funeral directors. As with hospitalisation, we cannot pay expenses, but can help transfer money from friends or relatives in the UK.

If the death occurred under suspicious circumstances, we can assist the family in dealing with the local police—and staff are available to meet family representatives in London. When there is an ongoing investigation overseas, we can ask a local UK police force to consider providing a family liaison officer, who advises and helps the family in dealing with the investigation.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Israel on UK attendance at the Durban Review Conference in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [241168]

Gillian Merron: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have been in discussions with their Israeli counterparts on the Durban Review Conference. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the Durban Review Conference with the government of Israel.

Whales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when his Department last met representatives from the International Whaling Commission to discuss international whaling practices. [240966]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials form part of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs-led UK delegation to the Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission, most recently held in Santiago, June 2008.

The FCO also contributed to the Government's recent communication to the International Whaling Commission, in response to the establishment by that body of a Small Working Group to consider issues in respect of its future. In that communication, the Government set out what we consider to be practical and necessary solutions to each of the 33 issues identified for the working group to consider.

The UK has also published 'The International Whaling Commission—The Way Forward'

http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/pdf/whales/iwc-wayforward.pdf

distributed to contracting governments, to assist in this process.

The Small Working Group met in Cambridge, 8-10 December 2008. An FCO official formed part of the UK delegation. The Small Working Group will meet again in Rome in March 2009.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on political developments in Zimbabwe. [245465]

Gillian Merron: Mr. Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party continue to be the obstacle that stands in the way of political progress in Zimbabwe. The people of Zimbabwe want a new government that reflects the March elections and that is committed to implementing urgently needed reform. Robert Mugabe is refusing to implement the political agreement reached with the two Movement for Democratic Change formations in September and is allowing Zimbabwe to sink further into an economic and humanitarian crisis, which is already spreading across the region. We continue to work with South Africa and others in the region to encourage a durable solution, and to provide humanitarian aid to the innocent victims of these policies.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [246536]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Mr. Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party continue to be the obstacle that stands in the way of political progress in Zimbabwe. The people of Zimbabwe want a new government that reflects the March elections and that is committed to implementing urgently needed reform. Robert Mugabe is refusing to implement the political agreement reached with the two Movement for Democratic Change formations in September and is allowing Zimbabwe

to sink further into an economic and humanitarian crisis, which is already spreading across the region. We continue to work with South Africa and others in the region to encourage a durable solution, and to provide humanitarian aid to the innocent victims of these policies.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions there were in each of the last 15 years, broken down by *(a)* grounds for abortion, *(b)* length of gestation and *(c)* health authority have been performed under the Abortion Act 1967 as amended by section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 where the unborn child was suffering from cleft (i) palate and (ii) lip. [247737]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table for abortions since 1995.

Prior to 1995, the International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems codes did not include cleft lip and/or palate. For 1995 onwards, abortions with a principal medical condition of cleft lip or cleft palate are coded together as cleft lip and/or palate.

Data cannot be broken down by gestation or health authority for confidentiality reasons in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005). All abortions shown were performed under section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967, that there is substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped. 2008 statistics are due to be published in spring 2009.

Abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967, with a principal medical condition of cleft lip and/or palate by gestation, residents of England and Wales, 1995-07

	Total cleft lip and/or palate	
	All gestations	*24+ weeks*
1995	6	0
1996	5	0
1997 +		0
1998	5	0
1999	3	0
2000	9	0
2001	2	1
2002	1	0
2003 +		[2]
2004 +		[2]
2005	[1]11	[2]
2006	[2]	[2]
2007	[2]	[2]

[1] For years 2003, 2004 and 2005, some of the principal medical conditions for abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) had to be suppressed as the totals for each single year were too small to release. In the three years 2003-2005, there were 11 cases with a principal medical condition of the congenital malformation cleft lip and/or cleft palate.

[2] Suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and nine). From 2003 onwards, totals of less than 10 are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality in line with the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

Abortion: Down's Syndrome

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward legislative proposals to repeal the provision of the Abortion Act 1967 allowing women to terminate a pregnancy if their child has Down's syndrome; and if he will make a statement. [247963]

Dawn Primarolo: It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for amendments to the Abortion Act 1967, as amended, come from Back-Bench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government have no plans to change the law on abortion.

One of the grounds for an abortion is:

"that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped."

Parliament did not define serious handicap in the Act. Indeed, it chose to leave this to the expert judgment of the two doctors involved, who are required to form their own opinion about the seriousness of the handicap the child would suffer if born, taking into account the facts and circumstances of each individual case.

Arthritis: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage the development of monitoring clinics in community settings for the purpose of reviewing patients with inflammatory arthritis. [249262]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of local health bodies to commission services to meet the needs of their population living with inflammatory arthritis. This may include the provision of monitoring clinics in community settings.

The Musculoskeletal Framework, published in July 2006 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), emphasised the importance of regular reviews for those with inflammatory arthritis, undertaken within a monitoring clinic which can also provide education and support to enhance self-management of these conditions.

Beverley Community Hospital

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the East Riding of Yorkshire primary care trust has spent on finding a new location for Beverley Community Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [247318]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan, develop and improve health services for their local residents.

The East Riding of Yorkshire PCT was awarded £20 million from the community hospital development fund to help towards the overall cost of the development of three community hospitals in the East Riding, at Beverley, Hornsea and Driffield. It is for the PCT to manage the costs involved in developing this scheme.

Brain Injuries

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to improve services for people with acquired brain injury; [247809]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to record the number of people who have acquired brain injuries. [247810]

Ann Keen: In March 2005 the Department published the "National Service Framework for Long-Term Conditions" which focuses on improving services for people with neurological conditions, including acquired brain injury. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library.

The Department has no plans to collect information on the number of people with acquired brain injuries.

Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish guidance for cancer commissioners. [247099]

Ann Keen: Guidance for cancer commissioners to take into consideration when assessing health needs, reviewing services and monitoring performance was launched on the Department's website on 12 January 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library and it can be viewed at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_092051.

This guidance sits alongside the web-based cancer commissioning tool kit launched to national health service users in June 2008, which supports commissioners of cancer services by providing a range of benchmarked information.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has validated a modular assessment tool for the purpose of collecting information on cancer awareness; and when he expects to undertake a national survey; [247101]

(2) what progress he has made on *(a)* developing and *(b)* testing a primary care audit tool for newly-diagnosed cancers; and when he expects to begin the national audit; [247108]

(3) what progress he has made on each component of the national awareness and early diagnosis initiative; and when he expects to be able to evaluate the initiative as a whole. [247109]

Ann Keen: Information on progress on the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative over the last year is set out in the first annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy, a copy of which is available in the Library.

The Department has funded the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to carry out a national baseline cancer awareness survey. ONS's survey is using the validated cancer awareness assessment tool developed by Cancer Research UK funded researchers. The early results from the survey were set out in the first annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy, and we expect to publish full results from the survey in the spring.

The Royal College of General Practitioners are taking forward work on the audit of cancer diagnosis in primary care. Three strands of work are currently being developed:

an assessment of the interval from first presentation to a general practitioner to diagnosis;

a significant event audit, focusing on lung cancer and cancer in children and young people, which will be piloted in early 2009; and

development of an audit template.

Consideration is currently being given to how best to evaluate the initiative.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of commissioners of cancer services in relation to NHS waiting time standards through the assurance system developed under the world class commissioning programme; [247107]

(2) what assessment he has made under the world class commissioning programme of cancer commissioners' compliance with advice contained in guidance issued by his Department subsequent to the publication of the Cancer Reform Strategy. [247121]

Ann Keen: Commissioners of cancer services are subject to the wider assurance system managed by strategic health authorities that has been developed under the world class commissioning programme. Assessments undertaken as part of this process relate to commissioning in general and not specifically to the commissioning of cancer services.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which local NHS organisations are following advice contained in the cancer reform strategy. [248445]

Ann Keen: The first annual report of the 'Cancer Reform Strategy' was published on 1 December 2008. The report 'Cancer Reform Strategy—Maintaining momentum, building for the future: first annual report' highlights progress that have been made nationally and locally. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

The annual report for 2009 will have a greater focus on local implementation.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by the NHS on the treatment of *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* prostate cancer in each of the last five years. [248836]

Ann Keen: The information on funding is not available in the format requested. The following table shows an estimate of the gross expenditure on cancers and tumours by the national health service in England for all cancer and tumour types, for the last four available financial years. This information was first collected in 2003-04 and is not available for any previous years.

The table also shows gross expenditure on breast cancer for 2006-07, the first year that this data was collected at sub-category level. Data on gross expenditure for prostate cancer at sub-category level is not collected.

Estimated gross expenditure on cancer and tumours (all types) and on breast cancers and tumours from 2003-04 to 2006-07

£

Financial year	*Gross expenditure on cancers and tumours —all types*	*Gross expenditure on breast cancers and tumours*
2003-04	3,385,750,000	n/a
2004-05	3,773,203,000	n/a
2005-06	4,302,656,000	n/a
2006-07	4,352,460,000	403,807,000

n/a = Not available
Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made towards completing a dataset for all chemotherapy service providers in respect of patients receiving chemotherapy. [247105]

Ann Keen: Work is under way with a group of clinicians to develop and agree a dataset for chemotherapy. The plan is to consult on this during 2009, with the aim of implementation in 2010.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic situation on those who fund their own stay in care homes; and what plans he has to assist such individuals to alleviate hardship. [248224]

Phil Hope: No such assessment has been made. Care home residents are already entitled to apply for public help with the cost of their care, subject to a test of their means, if they have less than £22,250 in savings. This will increase to £23,000 in April 2009.

The Government will work closely with local authorities and care providers to ensure they are able to meet their statutory responsibilities and protect the welfare of care home residents.

Carers

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of statutory rights for carers. [247218]

Phil Hope: One of the commitments in the National Carers' strategy, "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities", is to provide every carer with the opportunity to access comprehensive and locally specific information when they need it.

We are establishing 'Carers Direct', an information service which will provide, via a website and a helpline, access to the information needed by carers, including issues around their statutory rights.

The web element of the service will be launched—in limited form—at the end of January 2009, it will be in full form by the end of March 2009. The helpline—which will be available by phone, e-mail and mail—will go live in April 2009 and reach full capacity in July 2009.

The Government are making £2.8 million a year available to support this service.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made towards increasing the participation of women aged 25 to 35 years in the cervical cancer screening programme. [248447]

Ann Keen: As set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy, national health service cancer screening programmes have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to undertake work at a local level targeting this group. Six primary care trusts are taking part in this work. The Improvement Foundation are expected to deliver the outcomes from their work to NHS cancer screening programmes by the end of 2009, and the lessons learned will be shared with strategic health authorities and local screening programmes to develop best practice.

To incentivise services to encourage higher coverage, the decision has been taken to explore having a tariff for cervical screening, along with breast and bowel screening. The Department is working closely with NHS cancer screening programmes on a scoping exercise to inform this work.

We will continue to monitor levels of cervical screening coverage through the Office for National Statistics/ Information Centre annual cervical screening programme statistical bulletin.

NHS cancer screening programmes have already produced posters specifically targeting women in the age range of 25-35.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247378]

Phil Hope: Information on all departmental funding to charities and voluntary organisations is not available in the format requested from central records and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Tables which show grant awards from the funding years 2004-05 up to the current funding year 2008-09 with the identifiable data available including; Social Enterprise Pathfinders, Social Enterprise Investment Fund, Children's Hospice and Hospice at Home, Dignity in Care (one year capital awards), Section 64 General Scheme of Grants and the Opportunities for Volunteering grant scheme have been placed in the Library.

Chlamydia: East Sussex

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of persons in East Sussex have been diagnosed with chlamydia in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by primary care trust. [249400]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for chlamydia diagnosed in a genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic are currently only collected by strategic health authority (SHA) and are not broken down by primary care trust (PCT). Information on the rate of genital chlamydia diagnoses in GUM

clinics in the South East Coast SHA for 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, is given in the following table.

Chlamydia diagnoses in GUM clinics in the South East Coast SHA in 2007

	Number of chlamydia diagnoses	*Rate of chlamydia diagnoses (per 100,000 population)*
Male	3,311	160.9
Female	3,148	143.7
Total	6,459	152.0

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to the diagnosis of chlamydia in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening for chlamydia to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years of age in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003. Information on the proportion of people diagnosed with chlamydia through the NCSP in the South East Coast SHA broken down by PCT for April 2008 to September 2008, the latest date for which figures are available, is published in "NHS Vital Signs 2008/9—Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Strategic Health Authority (SHA) specific tables 1st April 2008 to 30th September 2008". A copy of the tables have been placed in the Library.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 675-76W, on contaminated blood and blood products inquiry, how many of the documents discovered in unregistered files and subsequently withheld from release under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were also withheld from release from the documents returned to his Department's solicitors in May 2006 by Blackett, Hart and Pratt. [247231]

Dawn Primarolo: Around 4,500 documents were discovered in unregistered files, and 35 were withheld from release under exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as set out in my answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 652W. One document was withheld from release from around 600 documents returned by a firm of private solicitors. The one document withheld from those returned by private solicitors was also among those withheld from documents found in unregistered files. The document was withheld under section 40 (personal information) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account his Department is taking in its policy on testing for vCJD infection amongst at-risk groups of the recent completion of the trial of the EP-vCJD(TM) test by Amorfix Life Sciences in collaboration with the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control; and if he will make a statement. [247049]

Dawn Primarolo: Advice on the use of this test will be sought from the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs and from the Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Incidents Panel when additional independent ongoing studies are completed.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246666]

Mr. Bradshaw: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Civil Service Management Code' respectively.

The number of aeroplane journeys undertaken by the Secretary of State and his predecessors over the last five years is:

Period	*Number*
July 2004 to March 2005	3
April 2005 to March 2006	8
April 2006 to March 2007	13
April 2007 to March 2008	3
April 2008 to December 2008	2

Numbers of aeroplane journeys for officials are not easily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248081]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold central records of expenditure on foreign language classes, either for Ministers or for its employees. Any survey to gather the relevant information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [243714]

Mr. Bradshaw: In the last 12 months, (1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008 inclusive), the Department has spent a total of £35,907,558 on advertising. This includes advertising on major public health and social care campaigns including tobacco control, sexual health, alcohol awareness, substance abuse support and advice, vaccination programmes and recruitment to social care work.

For the majority of staff in the Department, recruitment costs including advertising, are paid for locally by the business units that carried out the recruiting, and to gather the information from local sources would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246955]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department and its agencies commission a wide range of expert advisers from relevant fields to provide clinical and scientific input to their work.

Information is not held centrally and, given the time period, to collect it would incur disproportionate cost. Information about experts commissioned to provide professional or technical advice as members of advisory committees, boards and advisory public bodies would again incur disproportionate cost to collect.

Information about specific bodies can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/HowDHWorks/BoardsandCommittees/index.htm

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/OrganisationsthatworkwithDH/index.htm

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/OrganisationsthatworkwithDH/Armslengthbodies/index.htm.

Information about the 310 committees of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory products Authority (MHRA) can be found at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Committees/index.htm.

Information about special advisers, who are political appointees and advise on political, presentational and policy issues, has been announced to the Commons on an annual basis since 2003, usually in July.

All members of committees and advisory public bodies of the Department and its agencies are subject to the rules and procedures of the Appointments Commission including the requirement to declare any political activity.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247343]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department runs or supports the following 0845 telephone numbers.

	Telephone numbers
EHIC Order Line	0845 605 0707
EHIC enquiry line	0845 606 2030
Healthy Start	0845 607 6823
Healthy Start Minicom	0845 601 7698
Social Work and Care Careers Recruitment Line	0845 604 6404
Social Work and Care Careers Recruitment Minicom	0845 601 6121

The 0845 numbers serving recruitment for social care and social workers will be moved over to the new 0300 tariff by the end of February. The use of 0845 numbers for the other services is currently under review.

The Department ran the following non-revenue generating lines, using 0870 numbers. While they were mainly for the use of national health service and social services professional there was some use by the public. Since May 2008, these services have been available via 0300 numbers but the 0870 numbers needs to be maintained until the end of March 2009 to allow for the transition.

	Telephone numbers
Department of Health Publication Order line	08701 555 455
Department of Health Publication Order line minicom	08700 102 870

The Department's Executive agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency have no 0845 or similar cost telephone numbers for use by the public.

The Department does not centrally hold information on the telephone numbers used by the NHS.

The Department has 24 arm's length bodies and a number of national programmes e.g. NHS Employers. Information about telephone services for these bodies is not held centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

The Department also grants funds to a wide range of voluntary and charitable organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations include telephone helplines as part of their services. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to identify individual projects with telephones services and whether 0845 telephone numbers are used.

In February 2005, my right hon. Friend the Member for Barrow and Furness (Mr. Hutton), then Minister of State for Health announced a ban on the NHS using premium rate telephone numbers such as 0870.

We recently launched a public consultation on the intention to prohibit the use of 084 numbers in the NHS. This will run from 16 December 2008 until 31 March 2009.

Direct Payments

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to increasing the safeguards for people who lack capacity and have their direct payments managed on their behalf by a suitable person to a level which matches those for people who manage their own direct payments. [248129]

Phil Hope: Consultation on draft regulations in respect of the provisions in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 to extend direct payments to people lacking capacity has now closed and comments are currently being considered.

The draft regulations set out specific and robust conditions which a local authority must ensure can be met by the suitable person to whom it is making direct payments on behalf of the person lacking capacity. Before making any payment, the local authority must be satisfied that the appointed suitable person is capable of managing the direct payment and that in all circumstances it is appropriate for he or she to do so. In particular, the suitable person is required at all times to act in the best interests of the person lacking capacity, within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The suitable person must provide any information to the local authority as it sees fit, including notifying the local authority whenever they believe that the direct payment beneficiary has regained capacity. Local authorities will be under a duty to carry out regular reviews to ensure that making a direct payment in this way meets the needs and serves the best interests of the person lacking capacity.

Practice guidance will be published alongside the regulations to support local authorities to take appropriate safeguarding measures and therefore ensure that people lacking capacity are also able to benefit from direct payments.

Doctors: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* named and *(b)* designated doctor posts in charge of child safety in primary care trusts are vacant. [247034]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Down's Syndrome

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase awareness of Down's syndrome. [245855]

Phil Hope: The Department does not single out any condition when raising awareness around learning disability, although the Department recognises the excellent awareness work carried out by third sector groups, which support people with Down's syndrome and their families.

We have published today the "Valuing People Now" Strategy and Delivery Plan which will address people with learning disabilities having control over their lives and services, including what people do during the day, how they can be supported to access jobs, housing, better healthcare and making sure that change happens. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Library.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 144W, on elderly: abuse, which local authority reported in each of the 15 serious case reviews; and for each such authority how many serious case reviews there have been in each of the last four years. [248506]

Phil Hope: The serious case review reports and reports that were similar in nature but were not titled serious case reviews, were considered on a confidential basis. Local councils took part, on the agreement and understanding that the names of the councils involved and the reports not in the public domain would remain anonymous. The Department must therefore respect this arrangement. All participants in this research were assured of anonymity.

Exercise

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's recommendation is for the amount of exercise people should take each week. [247917]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's recommendations on the amount of exercise people should take each week reflect the Chief Medical Officer's views, set out in the report "At least five a week: Evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health" published in April 2004. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Children and young people should achieve a total of at least 60 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity each day. At least twice a week this should include activities to improve bone health (activities that produce high physical stresses on the bones), muscle strength and flexibility.

For general health benefit, adults should achieve a total of at least 30 minutes a day of at least moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week.

Family Nurse Partnership Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the family nurse partnership programme. [247382]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on the 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 71W.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons he decided not to implement proposals for changes to arrangements for GP dispensing. [248225]

Phil Hope: As I announced on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 952, the decision that there would be no change to the current arrangements for dispensing by general practitioners followed the consultation on the Pharmacy White Paper "Building on Strengths Delivering the Future - proposals for legislative change"—which closed on 20 November 2008.

An option contained in the consultation paper was to make no changes to current arrangements. Ultimately, in reaching that decision, we took account of the strength of the responses we received on the various options for amending the criteria for dispensing by doctors, the views of those attending the listening events, and views expressed at meetings with departmental officials.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to *(a)* increase the role that pharmacists play in patient safety and *(b)* improve communications between primary care trusts and local pharmacy committees. [248227]

Phil Hope: In the White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths - delivering the future", the Government stated that they consider that chief pharmacists of provider organisations, primary care trusts (PCTs) and other commissioners should have the lead role in ensuring that safe medication practices are embedded in patient care. To support this, and at the request of the Department, the National Patient Safety Agency hosted an event for senior pharmacists. This took place in London on 15 October 2008. The primary outcomes from the event were agreement by senior pharmacists to take on this role and the establishment of a virtual medicines safety forum where best practice can be shared. The White Paper also announced the appointment of two National Clinical Directors in pharmacy. Now in post, the National Clinical Directors will champion safe use of medicines as part of supporting the implementation of the pharmacy White Paper.

Communications between PCTs and local pharmacy committees are typically part of the role of PCT pharmaceutical advisers and chief pharmacists. The pharmacy National Clinical Directors will take opportunities to help improve communications between PCTs and local pharmacy committees where this is necessary. NHS Employers has been commissioned by the Department to convene and lead a working group of pharmacy, medical and public representatives to formulate a series of actions to promote more effective professional relationships. This work is ongoing.

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries use 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [247307]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost. However the Department remains clear that it does not expect patients to pay more than the equivalent cost of a local rate call when contacting their general practitioner.

We recently launched a public consultation on the intention to prohibit the use of 084 numbers in the national health service. This will run from 16 December 2008 until 31 March 2009.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of 0844 numbers by GPs' surgeries; and if he will make a statement. [248435]

Mr. Bradshaw: An information gathering exercise was completed in 2008 on the use of 084 telephone numbers in general practice. The information gathered was the subject of lengthy and detailed analysis before being shared with Ministers.

The Department subsequently launched a public consultation on the intention to prohibit the use of 084 numbers in the national health service. This will run from 16 December 2008 until 31 March 2009.

Health Centres: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made since 21 July 2008 in the disposal of his interest in the former NHS health centre in Saxon Square, Christchurch. [248853]

Mr. Bradshaw: Negotiations are currently in hand with the landlord for a surrender of the lease at the earliest opportunity.

Health Professions: Career Structure

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of proposals for modernising scientific careers proposals on *(a)* the funding of BSc level qualifications and *(b)* the number of students opting for a BSc level qualification in healthcare science. [247029]

Ann Keen: We do not believe that the modernising scientific careers proposals will have any effect on the funding of BSc level qualifications which are funded by the United Kingdom Higher Education Funding Councils through their block grant to higher education institutions.

Data are not available to estimate the number of students registered on degree programmes as there is no single degree in healthcare science.

Health Services: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to announce separate indicative funding allocations for disabled children's services and children's palliative care services in the Child Health Strategy. [249162]

Phil Hope: New growth funding is being included in primary care trust (PCT) baseline allocations up to 2010-11 to enable PCTs to work with local authorities to increase the range of services for children with complex needs. Our approach will be set out as part the Child Health Strategy which will be published soon.

On 19 December 2007, former Health Minister Ivan Lewis wrote a joint letter with Andrew Adonis, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, to every PCT and local authority in the country that sets out the clear framework of aims and accountability now in place to improve the capacity, range and quality of services for children with disabilities and complex health needs.

Health Services: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish his Department's review of customer experience information in health and social care. [246799]

Phil Hope: The report relating to the Department's review of customer experience information in health and social care will be published, and we plan to do so in spring 2009.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the national service framework on levels of coronary heart disease; and if he will make a statement. [247184]

Ann Keen: The latest available data on the prevalence of coronary heart disease (CHD) is taken from the 'Health Survey for England 2006'. The prevalence rate for men in that year had dropped to just over 6 per cent. compared with over 7 per cent. in both 1998 and 2003. Comparable figures for women were just under 3 per cent. in 2006 compared with over 4 per cent. in both 1998 and 2003. The overall trend for both men and women is downwards. A copy of this has been placed in the Library.

Information about the mortality rate from CHD from 1997 to 2007 is shown in the following table:

	Persons England
1997	159.82
1998	154.79
1999	145.15
2000	136.18
2001	130.05
2002	124.40
2003	119.18
2004	109.40
2005	101.91
2006	94.11
2007	88.98

Notes:
1. Data are based on the original underlying cause of death.
2. Data are based on the latest revisions of Office for National Statistics population estimates for the respective years, current as at 29 September 2008.
3. Indicator: Mortality from coronary heart disease (ICD9 410-414 adjusted, ICD10 120-125):
Age Group: All ages
Period: 1997-2007 (Annual trends)
Scale: Mortality rate per 100,000 European Standard population
Sources:
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care. © Crown Copyright. Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators/Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base (www.nchod.nhs.uk)
National Statistics (Extracts may only be reproduced by permission)

The rate has dropped steadily over the past 10 years—this is partly as a result of changes in lifestyle factors (such as reductions in the numbers who smoke) and partly as a result of improvement in treatment and services for heart disease, led since 2000 by the programme set out in the National Service Framework (NSF) for CHD.

While it is not possible to make a precise attribution between these two factors, research studies indicate that around approximately half of the reduction in mortality results from changes in lifestyle factors and around half to improvements in treatment and services.

A key target of the NSF is to contribute to the reduction of premature mortality from CHD and other cardiovascular diseases by at least 40 per cent. by 2010. This target was met five years early. The mortality rates fell 40.3 per cent. between 2004-06 over the 1995-97 baseline. This equates to the saving of 31,000 lives when comparing 2006 with 1996.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cancer networks and *(b)* primary care trusts have completed local reviews of in-patient bed usage. [247102]

Ann Keen: The electronic Cancer Commissioning Toolkit enables cancer networks and primary care trusts (PCTs) to review current bed utilisation for cancer patients, as set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy. Information on how many networks or PCTs are carrying out such reviews is not collected centrally.

Hospitals

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the location and address of each cleft palate and cleft lip unit is, broken down by health authority. [248001]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Hospitals: Disinfectants

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will discourage NHS trusts from procuring quaternary ammonium-based products for use as disinfectants in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [247541]

Ann Keen: The Department will continue to stress the need to use appropriate disinfectant materials. Choice of disinfectants is a local matter.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what criteria his Department uses to decide whether a product is sporicidal; whether his Department has assessed *(a)* peracetic acid-based formulas and *(b)* quaternary ammonium-based formulas to be sporicidal; and if he will make a statement; [247553]

(2) whether disinfectant wipes using peracetic acid-based formulas have been proven to be effective against Clostridium difficile; if his Department will encourage NHS trusts to use such wipes as disinfectants in NHS hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [247554]

Ann Keen: Data demonstrating a pass for the British Standard BS EN 13704:2002 test "Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of sporicidal activity of chemical disinfectants used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas" are generally used to establish whether a chemical disinfectant has or does not have sporicidal activity.

The Department has not made any specific assessments regarding the effectiveness of disinfectant wipes using peracetic acid-based formulas or quaternary ammonium-based formulas against spores.

The Department is currently commissioning research into the effectiveness of a number of commercial formulations that claim to be sporicidal which may include chlorine, peracetic acid-based and quaternary ammonium-based formulae.

Existing guidance recommends chlorine based disinfectants that have proven sporicidal activity. The choice of disinfectant products is a local matter. The Department will continue to stress the need to use appropriate disinfectant materials.

Influenza: Vaccination

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to publicise availability of influenza vaccination in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [249577]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W. The publicity for the seasonal flu campaign carried out by the Department is national, rather than regional.

Injuries: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions resulting from *(a)* unintentional and *(b)* deliberate injuries to children there were in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [247007]

Ann Keen: The data for 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

Cause	*Finished admission episodes (age 0-15 inclusive)*
Unintended	121,956
Deliberate (intentional self-harm)	7,622
Deliberate (assault)	3,270
Other	606

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics for 2006-07

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have been recorded as having a *(a)* profound and multiple, *(b)* complex and *(c)* severe learning disability in each of the last five years; and how many people had a learning disability at the latest date for which figures are available; [245985]

(2) how much the provision of social care packages for those with *(a)* profound and multiple, *(b)* complex and *(c)* severe learning disabilities cost his Department in each of the last five years; [245986]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of people with a learning disability there will be in 2008; and if he will make a statement; [245997]

(4) how many people with a learning disability recorded as living with parents over the ages of *(a)* 60, *(b)* 70 and *(c)* 80 years there were in each of the last 10 years; [245999]

(5) what estimate his Department has made of the number of people with a learning disability who will be living with parents aged over *(a)* 60, *(b)* 70 and *(c)* 80 years in 2028. [246000]

Phil Hope: The Department does not routinely collect data for:

the number of people who have been recorded as having profound and multiple, complex and severe learning disabilities;

the number of people and cost of provision of social care packages for those with profound and multiple, complex and severe learning disabilities;

the number of people who have learning disabilities; and

the number of people with learning disabilities who are living with parents over the ages of 60, 70 and 80.

The Department does not collect this data as it is for local authorities to work with local partners to determine the numbers and needs of their population through the joint strategic needs assessment. Local authorities should hold details of adults known to services and their level of need.

The Department is introducing a directed enhanced service to reward general practitioners for providing annual health checks for people with learning disabilities known to local authorities so they may keep data about these people in the future.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority spent on *(a)* community-based care and *(b)* residential care for people with a learning disability in each of the last five financial years. [247183]

Phil Hope: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the document, New Horizons for Mental Health Commissioning. [249653]

Phil Hope: We envisage that the New Horizons strategy framework will be ready for consultation in summer 2009.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve choice and information for people with depression and anxiety. [249654]

Phil Hope: The Department is committed to giving people with mental health problems choice, where possible, and a more personalised service, including making more information available about mental illness to help people manage their own care.

People with depression and anxiety are eligible to receive all National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved (NICE) psychological therapies, including guided self-help, counselling, computerised cognitive behavioural therapy, behavioural activation and exercise.

We are increasing the availability of these services in primary care through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT). IAPT aims to help primary care trusts implement NICE guidelines and improve access to psychological therapies in England for people with depression or anxiety disorders. It is supported by a significant national investment rising to £173 million by 2010-11. Our plan is to have trained 3,600 more therapists who will help to provide 900,000 more people with access to psychological therapies by 2010-11.

Mental Health: Economic Recession

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the impact of economic recessions on levels of mental health. [248375]

Phil Hope: The Department has not commissioned research on the impact of the economic recessions on levels of mental health. However, we recognise that there are links between poor mental health and difficult economic circumstances and, in the current climate it is understandable that people might worry more about their finances and employment. Mental health services in England are now better prepared than ever before to provide help for people with mental health problems.

Since 2001-02, real terms investment in adult mental health services increased by 44 per cent. (or £1.7 billion) putting in place the services and staff needed to transform mental health services. The national health service spent £5.53 billion on these services in 2007-08 (£3.844 billion in 2001-02).

We now have 64 per cent. more consultant psychiatrists, 71 per cent. more clinical psychologists and 21 per cent. more mental health nurses than we had in 1997, providing better care and support for people with mental health problems. (Full-time equivalent).

Because of the National Service Framework and increased funding, we now have over 740 new community mental health teams offering home treatment, early intervention, or intensive support for people who might otherwise have been admitted to hospital.

Further, we are investing significantly in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme with annual funding rising to £173 million in the third year (2010-11), to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

This programme is relieving distress and transforming lives by offering effective intervention and treatment choice to people with depression and anxiety disorders and improving the collection, recording and measuring of patients' health outcomes.

There were 35 new services launched last month, with more than 800 therapy workers now offering this support to people who need it.

Neonatal Mortality

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* assisted into unexplained neonatal mortality. [248216]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Three of the NIHR's biomedical research centres are undertaking research into cot and infant death.

In addition, the NIHR clinical research network is supporting a number of potentially relevant studies. Details are available on the network's portfolio database at:

www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new.html.

The Department's Policy Research Programme (PRP) funds the National Epidemiology Unit and the British Paediatric Unit. A significant part of the work of these units is concerned with aspects of neonatal and infant mortality. The PRP is also funding research into the relationship between outdoor air pollution and infant mortality.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Confidential Inquiry into Maternal and Child Health has further to review how it determines the *(a)* number of babies who are stillborn and *(b)* levels of neonatal mortality. [248218]

Ann Keen: Confidential Inquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) produces an annual national report covering perinatal mortality, which includes stillbirths and neonatal deaths to 28 days of life and feedback reports for every strategic health authority and provider trust with a maternity unit.

A major development in respect of stillbirth reporting has been a new system for classifying cause of death and the associated data collection form, introduced earlier this year. The first national reports using this new data will be available from April 2010.

In addition, for neonatal mortality, the annual national report for 2007, which CEMACH expects to publish in May 2009, will contain a focus section on neonatal mortality. This will provide new quantitative data on:

variations in neonatal mortality stratified by the level of neonatal care provided;

neonatal transfers and mortality;

neonatal mortality and place of birth; and

neonatal mortality and time of first booking for antenatal care and the UK position on international comparisons on neonatal mortality.

CEMACH is also developing comparative analysis on neonatal mortality for 2007 for each of the new local safeguarding children boards.

NHS: Buildings

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what average percentage of the occupied floor area of *(a)* each NHS trust's buildings and *(b)* all NHS trusts' buildings in England were in physical condition (i) C and (ii) D in each year since 1996-97. [247153]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department collects data on the percentage of occupied floor area that is below Estatecode condition B annually from national health service trusts through its Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC). These data are not amended centrally and therefore their accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing NHS organisations.

The percentage of the occupied floor area that is below Estatecode condition B has been collected since 2001-02. The information relating to 2001-02 onwards has been placed in the Library.

NHS organisations are locally responsible for the provision and maintenance of their buildings and facilities.

NHS: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued on whistle blowing policy in relation to individuals working in child protection in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [247812]

Ann Keen: The statutory guidance "Working Together to Safeguard Children", updated in 2006, requires all organisations that provide services for, or work with, children, to have appropriate whistleblowing procedures, and a culture that enables issues about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children to be addressed. National health service employers have issued general guidance on whistleblowing within the NHS and this can be found on their website.

NHS: Exchange Rates

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of recent sterling exchange rate changes on the cost of *(a)* medical, *(b)* surgical equipment and *(c)* pharmaceutical supplies; [246549]

(2) what drugs and healthcare products are imported for use by the NHS; and on which products exchange rate changes affect prices; [246550]

(3) what percentage in cost terms of the products purchased by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency, *(c)* NHS and primary care trusts and *(d)* regional procurement hubs are imported on which currency exchange rates will have an effect on price; [246551]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of recent exchange rate changes on the savings targets of the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. [246568]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected in the format requested and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to mitigate the impact of recent exchange rate changes on the overseas activities of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS; [246553]

(2) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the NHS is taking to mitigate the possible effects of foreign exchange movements on their budgets; and if he will make a statement; [246563]

(3) what *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the NHS's current corporate planning assumption rates are regarding foreign exchange movements; [246564]

(4) what net effect foreign exchange movements had on *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the NHS's budget in each year since 2001-02. [246565]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most of the budgets of the Department and the national health service are not directly affected by foreign exchange rate movements.

The NHS has negligible foreign currency income and expenditure and therefore is not exposed to significant foreign currency risk.

Although the Department itself pays for some goods and services in foreign currency, these are minimal enough not to need mitigating action. The Department also receives hardly any income in foreign currency.

Aside from goods and services, the Department is required to make some other payments in foreign currency. In order to mitigate the foreign currency risk on these payments, as the exact amount and timing of the payment is known, the Department purchases forward rate agreements with the Bank of England. In all other cases, a spot exchange rate is used.

There are no foreign currency movements in the Department's Resource Accounts as relevant provisions and liabilities in the balance sheet at the year-end are converted at the forward contract rate.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* the NHS's forecast (i) net euro and (ii) net US dollar exposure is in 2008-09; what it was in 2007-08; and what revisions were made to those forecasts in light of foreign exchange movements. [246554]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has negligible foreign currency income. Its expenditure in foreign currency during 2007-08 was €1,038 million and US$ 30 million.

Forecast outturn for 2008-09 is €826 million and US$ 30 million. This is based on having forward rate agreements in place to cover known foreign currency payments. Other payments could be made in 2008-09 using the prevailing spot rate but these are dependent on demand.

The national health service has negligible foreign currency income or expenditure and therefore not affected by foreign exchange rate movements.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to allow independent sector treatment centres to receive subsidies over the NHS tariff when contracts currently in place expire. [247947]

Mr. Bradshaw: As independent sector treatment centre contracts come to an end, local national health service commissioners are best placed to make decisions about health services in their communities. The Department will work with local commissioners to assess the best course of action to ensure that the needs of patients continue to be met.

NHS: Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's consultation on the use of 084 numbers within the NHS is expected to cost. [247143]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total costs for undertaking this consultation will only be known once the consultation is completed and all associated costs have been compiled. Final costs will depend on the actual level of demand for consultation documents during the consultation period and the associated print and distribution costs.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Direct uses 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [247806]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Direct telephone advice service currently operates on 0845 4647. As set out in the NHS Next Stage Review final report, published 30 June 2008, officials are currently considering options for the introduction of a new three digit telephone

number to help people find the right local service to meet their urgent, unplanned care needs. Any subsequent decision to introduce such a number, including tariff options, would be subject to public consultation, undertaken by Ofcom under the Communications Act 2003. NHS Direct will retain its current 084 number until we are clear about any future role and function it may have in implementing a national three digit number for urgent care.

Additionally, NHS Direct is commissioned to provide local services on behalf of primary care trusts and other organisations. NHS Direct provides telephone numbers with prefixes including:

0845;
0800;
01;
02; and
03.

In accordance with Centre of Information guidance, NHS Direct does not directly or indirectly receive revenue for the use of any 0845 numbers.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts the NHS has awarded to agency staff in each year since 1997; what the cost of these contracts was; and if he will estimate the annual cost of each contract had it been awarded to in-house NHS providers in each year since 1997. [248333]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy when placing material in the Library in response to a parliamentary question to supply a copy of the material to the hon. Member who tabled the question; and if he will make a statement. [247750]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is our practice to always supply a copy to the hon. Member. If one has been inadvertently missed, we will be pleased to supply a copy.

Patients: Safety

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were harmed as a result of an error or missed diagnosis in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in the last 12 months. [246561]

Ann Keen: For the period from July 2007 to June 2008, the National Patient Safety Agency received 2,300 reports where patients were harmed due to patient safety incidents classified as diagnostic delay, failure or error.

There were 171 of these incidents reported from East of England Strategic Health Authority. Reporting and learning data are collected on the basis of National Health Service service providers. it is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown of data to constituency level.

Physiologists

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health care science disciplines his Department classifies as falling within the field of physiological science; and which of these require statutory registration of practitioners. [247036]

Ann Keen: The disciplines which fall within the field of physiological science are as follows:

Audiology;
Autonomic neurovascular function;
Cardiac physiology;
Clinical perfusion;
Critical care technology;
Gastrointestinal physiology;
Hearing therapy;
Neurophysiology;
Ophthalmology;
Respiratory physiology;
Sleep physiology;
Urodynamics and urological measurements;
Vascular technology; and
Vision science.

Five aspirant health care science groups have already been recommended to the Secretary of State for Health for statuary regulation. These are as follows:

Clinical physiologists, consisting of audiologists, cardiac physiologists, gastrointestinal physiologists, neurophysiologists and respiratory physiologists;
Clinical perfusionists;
Clinical technologists;
Clinical photographers; and
Maxillofacial prosthetic technologists.

"The Future of the Healthcare Science Workforce Modernising Scientific Careers: The Next Steps A Consultation" published in November 2008 makes clear that proposals for a new regulatory framework for the totality of the health care science work force will be consulted upon and all matters relating to the regulation of the five aspirant groups will be resolved as part of this separate consultation. A copy of the consultation has already been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance his Department provides to social care establishments on obtaining repeat prescriptions of a controlled drug; [249039]

(2) on how many occasions a report has been made to the Commission for Social Care Inspection of an incident involving overdose with a controlled drug of a resident in a care establishment in each of the last three years; [249014]

(3) what procedure is followed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection when an incident of overdose with a controlled drug of a resident in a care establishment is reported to them. [249032]

Phil Hope: Regulations do not allow for schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs to be provided through a repeat prescription, but schedule 4 and 5 controlled drugs may

be provided. Guidance to care providers, entitled "The handling of medicines in social care" is published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB). This includes guidance about obtaining prescribed medicines in general; it is not specific to controlled drugs. It also includes general information about the use of controlled drugs in care services.

Regulation 13 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001 requires registered providers to make arrangements for the recording, handling and, safe keeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the care home. This applies to all medicines, including controlled drugs. The National Minimum Standards (NMS) contain detailed requirements, governing the protection of service users, the safe receipt, administration, recording, storage and disposal of medicines in the home. Controlled drugs are specifically referred to in the NMS, which also refer providers to the RPSGB Guidance, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1973 and other relevant legislation.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) does not provide specific guidance to care providers about repeat prescriptions for controlled drugs. During regulatory inspections, CSCI looks for a robust procedure within a care home to request repeat prescriptions residents, irrespective of whether they are for controlled drugs. Failure to obtain prescribed medicines, or occasions when a care service orders more prescriptions than a person needs—for example when the medicines are prescribed for use as and when needed it would be identified to the registered provider/manager and included in the inspection report.

CSCI's most recent guidance on reports about serious incidents in care homes includes a requirement to report every error involving a controlled drug. However, these are identified to individual services and are not collated nationally. CSCI pharmacist inspectors look at the handling of controlled drugs in the services they visit. CSCI recently carried out an analysis of its findings between April and December 2008; overdose was not an issue identified as a problem area.

If a serious incident is reported to CSCI under regulation 37 of the Care Homes Regulations, which governs notification of death, illness and other events in care homes, it is followed up by the Regulation Inspector/ Regulation Manager associated with that service. Depending on circumstances, they may refer the issue to the pharmacist inspector. It is one of CSCI's referral criteria to contact a pharmacist inspector and this may result in inspection of the care home and a resulting report with requirements and recommendations. If the overdose is a result of an incorrect prescription from the general practitioner, the pharmacist inspector will liaise via the Local Intelligence Network through the NHS Accountable Officer at the relevant primary acre trust, who will deal with the issue.

Primary Care Trusts: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he expects each primary care trust to spend per head of population in 2008-09, ranked from highest to lowest. [246668]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available until primary care trusts complete their 2008-09 audited accounts in summer 2009.

Primary Care Trusts: Standards

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Healthcare Commission's annual healthcheck for 2008-09 will include an assessment of primary care trust performance as providers and commissioners against National Institute for Heath and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines. [246674]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2008-09 Annual Health Check incorporates primary care trusts' self-declarations, as providers and commissioners, on levels of compliance with the following core standards in relation to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence:

Core Standard C3 Healthcare organisations protect patients by following National Health Institute for Clinical Excellence Interventional Procedures guidance; and

Core Standard C5a Healthcare organisations ensure that they conform to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence technology appraisals and, where it is available, take into account nationally agreed guidance when planning and delivering treatment and care.

Respite Care: Havering

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £150 million funding awarded by his Department for respite to carers will be allocated to the London Borough of Havering. [248018]

Phil Hope: The £150 million funding announced in the Carers' Strategy is included in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations, announced on 8 December 2008. This money will go to all PCTs and will support all carers. The actual level of spend in each year is for PCTs to decide locally in the light of their local circumstances and priorities, as set out in the NHS Operating Framework and Vital Signs.

Shingles

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings he and his officials have had to discuss prevention of shingles and post herpetic neuralgia in older people through immunisation. [247536]

Dawn Primarolo: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is currently in the process of considering the benefits of shingles vaccination. The Varicella subgroup met in December 2007 and April 2008 and is due to meet again in March 2009. The subgroup is expected to provide advice on shingles vaccination to JCVI in June 2009. Minutes of the meetings are placed on the JCVI website at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/index.htm

Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of regular smokers in *(a)* Stroud constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire and *(c)* England; and how many people have given up smoking in each area over the last 12 months. [247936]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested. Data for Stroud constituency are not collected. Data for England, Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and South Gloucestershire PCT are available.

Information on the prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over by gender and age group in England is available from the General Household Survey 2006, Table 1.1, page 15. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Estimated prevalence of smokers among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals for Gloucestershire PCT and South Gloucestershire PCT are available from Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours: Model Based Estimates, 2003-2005. 2006 Health Hierarchy. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Information on the number of people who successfully quit smoking at the four week follow up (based on self report) in South Gloucestershire PCT, Gloucestershire PCT and England in the last year 2007-08 are available from the Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2007 to March 2008, Table 2.4, page 11 at national level and Table 3.5, pages 28-30 at PCT level. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Elderly and Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to assist social workers in protecting the elderly and disabled. [247942]

Phil Hope: The protection of older, disabled and other people who use services is covered by the National Occupational Standards for Social Work, which form the basis for the social work degree.

Statutory guidance, entitled "No Secrets", was issued to local authorities (LAs) by the Department and the Home Office in 2000. A copy has been placed in the Library. It provides a complete definition of abuse and a framework for councils to work with the police, the national health service and regulators to tackle abuse of older and vulnerable people and prevent it from occurring. It is designed to help LAs to investigate reports of abuse and develop measures for prevention.

"No Secrets" is currently being reviewed and a public consultation is under way. The consultation document includes a question on the delivery of training in safeguarding adults and asks whether national occupational training standards should be introduced. The consultation closes on 31 January 2009.

Tuberculosis: Ashford Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of tuberculosis have been recorded in Ashford constituency in each quarter of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [249258]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are not available for the constituency of Ashford. The following table gives the number of tuberculosis cases in the local authority of Ashford as the closest measure, for the calendar years 2001 to 2006.

	Ashford local authority
2001	8
2002	<5
2003	7
2004	5
2005	5
2006	7

Notes:
1. Data by local authority are not yet available for 2007 or 2008.
2. In years when there have been fewer than five cases, the exact number of cases is not given because of the risk of deductive disclosure.
3. Data are not provided by quarter because the numbers of cases in each quarter is likely to be very low (fewer than five) and could not be released because of the risk of deductive disclosure.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what changes he plans to the weight limits applying to the classification of wheelchairs in *(a)* class one and *(b)* class two. [R] [247796]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

We have no plans to change the weight limits applying to class one and class two wheelchairs at this time.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there were for the offences of (i) drunkenness simple and (ii) drunkenness with aggravation in 2007. [244845]

Jacqui Smith: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness with aggravation in England and Wales in 2007 are in the table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Data showing the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for "Drunk and disorderly", "Drunk in a highway" and "Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place" are also shown in the following table.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness with aggravation, and the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for "drunk and disorderly[1]" "drunk in a highway[2]" and "consumption of alcohol in a designated public place[2]", England and Wales, 2007[3,4]

Offence	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*PNDs issued*
Drunkenness simple	1,646	1,446	n/a
Drunkenness with aggravation	18,199	15,975	n/a

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness with aggravation, and the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) issued for "drunk and disorderly[1]" "drunk in a highway[2]" and "consumption of alcohol in a designated public place[3]", England and Wales, 2007[4,5]

Offence	Proceeded against	Found guilty	PNDs issued
Drunk and disorderly	[1]	[1]	46,996
Drunk in a highway	[2]	[2]	2,066
Consumption of alcohol in a designated public place	[2]	[2]	1,544

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Included in the data for drunkenness with aggravation.
[2] Included in the data for drunkenness simple.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
E and A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury St Edmunds of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 710WA, on alcoholic drinks: young people, how many penalty notices for disorder for the offence of selling alcohol to a person aged under 18 years were issued to persons aged 16 years and over in England and Wales in 2007, broken down by police force area; and how many such notices remain unpaid. [244969]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 December 2009]:* Data showing the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for the offence of "Selling alcohol to a person aged under 18" broken down into numbers paid, court hearing requests and fine registered in England and Wales, in 2007 by police force area are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of penalty notices for disorder paid in full[1] and unpaid[2] relating to all persons aged 16 and over, for the offence of "Selling alcohol to a person aged under 18" by police force area and outcome, England and Wales, 2007[3, 4]

Force	Number paid in full[1]	Total unpaid[2]
Avon and Somerset	54	6
Bedfordshire	12	1
Cambridgeshire	21	1
Cheshire	24	2
Cleveland	57	8
Cumbria	26	2
Derbyshire	79	22
Devon and Cornwall	62	7
Dorset	34	1
Durham	24	1
Essex	104	7
Gloucestershire	80	6
Greater Manchester	126	15
Hampshire	185	20
Hertfordshire	60	7
Humberside	81	17
Kent	19	4
Lancashire	154	36
Leicestershire	127	23
Lincolnshire	46	8
London, City of	0	0
Merseyside	148	27
Metropolitan Police	270	71
Norfolk	28	8
Northamptonshire	18	4
Northumbria	56	11
North Yorkshire	20	5
Nottinghamshire	136	32
South Yorkshire	132	27
Staffordshire	60	7
Suffolk	17	3
Surrey	63	9
Sussex	99	20
Thames Valley	117	14
Warwickshire	34	3
West Mercia West	34	2
Midlands West	120	15
Yorkshire	137	24
Wiltshire	22	2
Dyfed-Powys	19	1
Gwent	61	10
North Wales	50	13
South Wales	46	7
England & Wales	3,074	509

[1] Includes PNDs paid in full within 21 days and paid in full outside 21 days.
[2] Includes PNDs fine registered, these cancelled, those where a court hearing has been requested, those for potential prosecution and those where the outcome is unknown
[3] Includes the following statute and corresponding offence description Sale of alcohol anywhere to a person under 18. s. 146(1) of the Licensing Act 2003
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of people aged 10 to 17 years for being drunk and disorderly there were in *(a)* Stockport metropolitan borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in each year since 1997. [246071]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for being drunk and disorderly in the Greater Manchester

police force area and the north west region, from 1997 to 2007, the latest available, are given in table 1.

The statistics for those persons proceeded against relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Available information on the number penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 to 17 for being drunk and disorderly are given in table 2 from 2004, when the scheme commenced, to 2007.

Court proceedings and PND data collected centrally are available at police force area level only; therefore data for Stockport metropolitan borough cannot be supplied.

Table 1: The number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of being drunk and disorderly[1] in the Greater Manchester police force area and the north west region[2], 1997 to 2007[3, 4]

	Greater Manchester police force area	North west region
	Persons aged 10-17	
1997	55	556
1998	65	489
1999	62	501
2000	106	587
2001	93	580
2002	77	554
2003	67	568
2004	47	416
2005	25	230
2006	21	252
2007	31	344

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to persons aged 16 to 17 years for offences of being drunk and disorderly in the Greater Manchester police force area and the north west region[1], 2004[2] to 2007[3].

	Greater Manchester police force area	North west region
	Persons aged 16 to 17 years	
2004	7	500
2005	45	880
2006	32	940
2007	36	953

[1] Includes, Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside police force areas.
[2] Commencement of the PND scheme.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Ali Dizaei

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Sir Ian Blair was involved in the decision to suspend Commander Ali Dizaei. [247328]

Mr. Coaker: Any questions relating to the suspension of senior officer, other than the chief officer, are a matter for the relevant police authority and the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal provisions are in place to prevent *(a)* the preaching of hatred and *(b)* incitement to commit criminal acts against the Jewish community in England and Wales; how many persons have been (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of offences under such provisions in each of the last two years for which figures are available, broken down by (A) age of offender, (B) sex of offender and (C) police force area of charge; and if she will make a statement. [247788]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The use of threatening words with the intention of stirring up religious hatred constitutes an offence under the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and would apply in the case of such threats used in respect of the Jewish community.

Section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986 which relates to stirring up hatred on racial grounds would also apply, as Jews are considered to be a racial group. This section states that a person who uses threatening, abusive or insulting words commits an offence if he intends to stir up racial hatred, or having regards to all the circumstances, racial hatred is likely to be stirred up thereby.

In addition, sections 44-46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 relate to offences of assisting and encouraging crime. These offences can apply in respect of any offence, including those targeted against the Jewish community.

The statistics collected in relation to these offences do not include information which would allow the separate identification of offences committed against the Jewish community and this detailed breakdown is therefore not available.

Arrests

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been arrested by police for regulatory offences in each of the last five years. [247095]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and drug offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Association of Chief Police Officers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the corporate status of the Association of Chief Police Officers; and if she will make a statement. [243140]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The Home Office is not aware of any representations being made on the corporate status of the Association of Chief Police Officers to the Home Office.

Border and Immigration Agency: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* income and *(b)* expenditure of the Border and Immigration Agency was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [245316]

Mr. Woolas: The total costs of the Border and Immigration Agency function (known from 2007-08 onwards as the UK Border Agency) for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as follows:

Border and Immigration Agency (known as UK Border Agency from 2007-08)

£000

	2005-06	2006-07	200-08
(a) Income	211,165	225,289	306,802
(b) Expenditure	1,728,820	1,688,041	1,725,953

British Nationality

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 712-14W, on the British Nationality (Honorary Citizenship) Bill, if she will deposit a copy of the letter and attachments in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [247974]

Mr. Woolas: A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations her Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247377]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's funding of charities and voluntary organisations can not be provided, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Christmas

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [247097]

Mr. Woolas: No official funds were used for Christmas parties in the last three years: any parties attended are entirely at the cost of the individual member of staff. Expenditure on staff entertainment is tightly controlled, and is only incurred as part of the Home Office policy on staff reward and recognition, and where it is shown that alternative forms of recognition (such as saying thank you, providing vouchers, or a bonus) have been considered. The Department's accounting system cannot analyse expenditure on reward and recognition by its component parts, without incurring disproportionate cost.

All Home Office expenditure on rewards and recognition, including staff entertainment, conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department work on cohesion related issues; and what forecasts she has made of the cost of employing such staff in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [245580]

Mr. Woolas: Cohesion is a key aspect of the work of many staff in the Home Office; however, there is no central 'Cohesion Team', nor is there a central repository for job specifications.

Crime: Airguns

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving airguns took place in each year since 1997. [247697]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Firearms are taken to be involved in a crime if they are fired, used as a blunt instrument against a person, or used as a threat.

Available data relate to crimes involving air weapons recorded by the police in England and Wales, from 1997 up to and including 2006-07. These were published in "Homicides, Firearms Offences and Intimate Violence 2006/07" and are given in the following table. Data for 2007-08 are being published on 22 January 2009.

Crimes reported by the police in which air weapons were reported to have been used[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006-07

	Recorded crime Number
1997	7,506
1998-99	8,665
1999-2000	10,103
2000-01	10,227
2001-02	12,377
2002-03[2]	13,822
2003-04	13,756
2004-05[3]	11,825
2005-06	10,439
2006-07	8,839

[1] By being fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.
[2] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[3] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Crime: Business

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions her Department has had with organisations representing business on the subject of *(a)* business crime and *(b)* recording business crimes separately. [247126]

Mr. Alan Campbell: My officials are in regular contact with organisations representing businesses to discuss business crime issues. I chair the National Retail Crime Steering Group and the round table to reduce robbery of cash and valuables in transit, both of which met recently on 12 November 2008. Key members of these groups include organisations representing business (such as the British Retail Consortium, Federation of Small Businesses, and the Association of Convenience Stores) as well as businesses directly affected by these problems. We also regularly discuss fraud issues with APACS (the UK Payments Association) whose members may bear the financial loss caused by cheque and card fraud. The Home Office is currently piloting an initiative to record commercial burglary separately in police recorded crime statistics.

Emerging findings and lessons will be discussed with members of the National Retail Crime Steering Group later this year.

Crimes of Violence: Betting Shops

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information she holds on the number of betting shop workers subjected to verbal abuse in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in the last two years. [247949]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No information is available centrally relating to the number of verbal attacks on betting shop workers.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been incorrectly designated as having a criminal conviction by the Criminal Records Bureau since the Bureau's inception. [248010]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) strives to achieve the highest levels of accuracy. Their quality control procedures show that they have achieved an accuracy rate for 2006-07 of 99.94 per cent and for 2007-08 is 99.98 per cent. No comparative data is available before these dates.

The CRB operates a disputes process where applicants can contest information that has been released on their disclosure. In 2007-08, 3,323,251 disclosures were issued, of which 4,931 were disputed and 2,785 were upheld. This equates to 0.0838 per cent. of all disclosure applications.

A dispute can be upheld for a number of reasons. This can include incorrect recording of the wording of a conviction recorded on PNC; incorrect recording of the disposal of a conviction recorded on PNC; amendments made to the wording of non-conviction information released by the individual police forces; the conviction does not belong to the applicant.

The CRB cannot provide a figure to determine how many individuals had convictions printed on their disclosures which did not belong to them. This is because an applicant may apply for several disclosures that year and the CRB only records the number of disputes raised.

The CRB is committed to ensure that it maintains high levels of accuracy and the aforementioned figures show this.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by her Department in each of the last three years; and how much her Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248376]

Mr. Woolas: My Department inclusive of its agencies does not contract directly for food or drinks supplies but procures catering services through wider Facilities Management or operational service contractors. To obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department are employed in *(a)* the commercial directorate, *(b)* general property, *(c)* the Home Office IT shared services, *(d)* the Office of the Chief Information Officer and *(e)* the performance and finance directorate of the Financial and Commercial Group; and how many are employed in the Group in total. [247823]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the Finance and Commercial Group and the specific directorates requested in the question.

Finance and Commercial Group

	Headcount as at 30 November 2008
Total staff in the Finance and Commercial Directorate	655
Which includes:	
(a) Commercial Directorate	32
(b) Home Office Property General	132
(c) Home Office IT Shared Services	175
(d) Office Chief Information Officer	32
(e) Performance and Finance Directorate	114

Note:
Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors and agency) and non-active staff.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department are employed in the *(a)* Corporate Communications unit, *(b)* E-communications unit, *(c)* Marketing and Strategic Communications unit and *(d)* Press Office of the Communications Directorate; and how many are employed in the Directorate in total. [247824]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the Communications Directorate and the specific units requested in the question.

Communications Directorate

	Headcount as at 31 December 2008[1]
Total staff headcount in the Communications Directorate	177
Which includes:	
(a) Corporate Communications	28
(b) E-communications unit	16
(c) Marketing and Strategic Communications unit	23
(d) Press Office	42

[1] Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency) and non-active staff.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department are employed in the *(a)* Crime and Drug Strategy Directorate, *(b)* Police and Crime Standards Directorate, *(c)* Police Reform and Resources, *(d)* Policing Policy and Operations Directorate and *(e)* Strategic Support Directorate of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group; and how many staff are employed in the Group in total. [247825]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group (CRCSG) and the specific directorates requested in the question.

Headcount as at 31 December 2008[1]

	Number
Total staff Headcount[2] in Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group (CRCSG) Directorate	599
Which includes:	
(a) Crime and Drugs Strategy Directorate (CDSD)	128
(b) Police and Crime Standards Directorate (PCSD)	105
(c) Police, Reform and Resource Directorate (PRRD)	75
(d) Policing Policy and Operations Directoarate (PPOD)	214
(e) Strategic Support Directorate (SSD)	72

[1] Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency)
[2] Total staff headcount include non-active staff.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's staff are employed in the *(a)* Animal (Scientific Procedures) Division, *(b)* Home Office Scientific Development Branch, *(c)* Research, Development and Statistics Branch, *(d)* Science and Research Group Support and (e) Science Secretariat of her Department's Science and Research Group; and how many are employed by the Group in total. [247827]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the overall number of people employed within the Home Office's Science and Research Group broken down by the requested units.

Please note that the research teams are embedded within each Home Office business area rather than within the Science and Research Group and are therefore not included in these figures.

Headcount in Science and Research Group (SRG)

SRG Unit	*Main purpose*	*Headcount as at 31 December 2008*
Director	Chief Scientific Advisor and office	2
Animal (Scientific Procedures Division and Inspectorate)	Licences all experiments which use animals and provides scientific advice to the Home Secretary and to officials who operate the licensing system.	55
Home Office Scientific Development Branch	Provides all the technical and scientific support and development for policing, Counter Terrorism and all other HO functions	245
Economics and Resource Analysis Unit	Uses economic and operational analysis, forward- looking modelling and horizon scanning to support HO decision-making	37
Home Office Statistics Unit	Produces HO National Statistics together with statistical information and advice on Home Office topics	70
Science and Research Group Support	Provides corporate support for the group and a shared service for HO and Ministry of Justice analytic teams	27

Headcount in Science and Research Group (SRG)

SRG Unit	Main purpose	Headcount as at 31 December 2008
Science Secretariat	Provides a secretariat to the HO Science Advisory Committees and leads HO Science Strategy and planning	12
Forensic Science Regulator Unit	Regulates forensic science quality standards for forensic science used in the Criminal Justice System	8
Total staff headcount		456

Note:
Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency)

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's staff in total are employed in the *(a)* UK Border Agency, Immigration and International Section, *(b)* UK Border Agency, Border Enforcement and Citizenship Section, *(c)* UK Border Agency, Simplification Project, *(d)* Commercial and Employment Section, *(e)* European Union Section, *(f)* Identity and Passport Service and Corporate Projects Section and *(g)* Policing and Crime Reduction Section of her Department's Legal Advisers Branch; and how many are employed in the Branch in total. [247829]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables provides the total number of staff employed by the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group (CRCSG) and the specific directorates requested in the question.

FTE as at 31 December 2008

	Number
Total staff in United Kingdom Border Agency (Including UKVisas)	18,192
which includes:	
(a) United Kingdom Border Agency	
Immigration and International Section	
Immigration Group[1]	9,391
International Group[2]	681
Total	10,072
(b) United Kingdom Border Agency	
Border Enforcement and Citizenship Section	
Border Force[3]	4,483
Citizenship[4]	587
Total	5,070
(c) United Kingdom Border Agency	
Simplification Project	17
Other (comprising)	
Resource Management Group	1,142
Human Resources and Organisational Development	327
Policy and Strategy[5]	251
Intelligence	226
Criminal and Detention Group	1,078
Chief Inspectorate and Programme Directorate	10

FTE as at 31 December 2008

	Number
Total	3,033

[1] Excludes Citizenship given under *(b)*
[2] Of which 92 are International Group employees and the remainder are former UKVisas employees still held on FCO payroll. Headcount figures are unavailable for these workers.
[3] Includes E-Borders
[4] These staff are part of Immigration Group.
[5] Excluding Simplification Project

Headcount as at 31 December 20

	Number
Total staff in Legal Advisers Branch (LAB)	51
which includes:	
(a) Commercial and Employment section	8
(b) European Union section	3
(c) Identity and Passport Service and Corporate Projects Section	3
(d) Policing and Crime Reduction section	5

Note:
Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency) and non-active staff

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's staff are employed in the *(a)* EU section and *(b)* European near neighbours and wider world section of the International Directorate; and how many are employed in the Directorate in total. [247830]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the International Directorate and the specific directorates requested in the question.

International Directorate	Headcount as at 31 December 2008
Total staff in the International Directorate[1]	45
Which includes:	
(a) International Directorate HQ staff[2]	33
(b) Overseas Secondment Review Board[3]	10

[1] Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency).
[2] Includes staff working in EU and Wider World.
[3] Includes staff working mainly in the EU.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's staff are employed in the *(a)* Career Development and Assessment Unit, *(b)* Departmental Security Unit, *(c)* Home Office Pay and Pensions Service and *(d)* HR Services of the Human Resources Department; and how many people are employed in the Department in total. [247831]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the Home Office and the specific directorates requested in the question.

Home Office	Full-time equivalent as at 31 December 2008
Total staff in the Home Office[1]	25819.47
(a) Career Development and Assessment Unit	53.4
(b) HO Departmental Security Unit	56.1
(c) Home Office Pay and Pensions Service	210.5
(d) HR Services	96

[1] Total includes permanent, non-permanent and non-active staff in UKBA, IPS, CRB and HO HQ staff FTE. UKBA's figures exclude UK Visas. IPS figures include General Register Office (GRO). (a) to (d) excludes non-active staff.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that temporary and permanent employees of her Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248414]

Mr. Woolas: All staff employed directly by the Home Office in the same grade are paid on the same salary scale, whether or not they are employed on a permanent or non-permanent contract.

Whether an employee is permanent or temporary in itself has no bearing on the rate of pay they will receive.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use (a) her Department and (b) service providers under contract to her Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration her Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if she will make a statement. [247344]

Mr. Woolas: Please see the following table detailing the use and purpose of non-geographic numbers, e.g. 0845 and 0870.

The Home Office did not derive any income from such charges in each of the last three years. Information relating to revenue generated prior to 2005 is not held centrally and as such it is not possible to answer this aspect of the question within time and cost limits of the PQ process.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) replaced all 0870 numbers to the Passport Adviceline with two 0300 numbers on 1 September 2008. The sole 0845 number to the Passport Adviceline was replaced at the same time with a 0300 number. There is however a transition period that is currently halfway through and both numbers will be accessible until 31 August 2009. The revenue arising from the previous 0870 IPS arrangements was approximately £300,000 per year and was used to offset the cost of providing the service to callers.

0845 numbers are however used for customer correspondence inquiries in to the Liverpool, Newport and Peterborough passport offices and similar arrangements are planned for the remaining four IPS regional passport offices.

The General Register Office, part of IPS, intends to investigate the introduction of an 03-prefixed telephone number during the financial year 2009-10.

Revenue sharing numbers

Number	Purpose	Type
0870 521 0410	Passport Adviceline (replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 0000)	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport Adviceline (text phone service replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 0222)	Minicom
0870 243 4477	Passport enquiries for High Street Partners (replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 0000)	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport Complaints (replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 0000)	Phone
0845 121 0046	Authentication by Interview (ABI) Booking Line (replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 1000)	Phone
0845 603 7788	GRO Certificate Services	Phone
0870 125 1256	Siemens Business Services IPS Query Letters (replaced on 1 September 2008 by 0300 222 1111)	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh Language Line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicom
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau General Inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau Registration Information Line	Phone
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	'Together' (advice line for practitioners on tackling antisocial behaviour)	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to Jacqui Smith	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Lord West	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrne	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
0870 336 9036	Contact Private Office to Meg Hillier	Fax

Revenue sharing numbers

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Team	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' Special Advisers	Fax
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Fax
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Fax
0845 010 6677	UKBA Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 2298	UKBA Evidence and Enquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Enquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals - recorded message only)	Phone
0845 602 1739	Enquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Enquiry Bureau	Phone
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 010 5200	Nationality telephone enquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	UKBA Work Permits Literature Order Line	Phone
0845 600 0914	Asylum Support Customer Contact Centre	Phone
0870 241 6523	Enquiries about the work of the UKBA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone
0845 602 1465	UKBA MPS hot line fax line	Fax
0845 601 1145	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 601 1143	National Asylum Support fax line	Fax
0845 609 0395	UKBA MPS hotline	Phone
0845 601 1150	National Asylum Support Service/MP's hot line	Phone
0845 010 5555	UK Visas (pre-recorded information line)	Phone

Detention Centres

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration removal centres she has visited in the last 12 months. [248356]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has visited one immigration removal centre (IRC) in the past 12 months—Jacqui Smith visited Colnbrook IRC on 21 January 2008.

Dorset Police: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many extra police will be allocated to the Dorset Constabulary to provide security for the aquatic events for the duration of the 2012 Olympics; [248067]

(2) how much local authorities in the area will contribute to the overall cost of providing security for the Dorset events of the 2012 Olympics; [248068]

(3) what estimate has been made of the policing costs to provide security for the Olympic 2012 events taking place in Dorset. [248082]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* We have set aside up to £600 million to ensure a safe and secure Olympic Games in 2012 and are in the process of producing an integrated costed security strategy.

We are working closely with Dorset police on their requirements for policing the sailing events.

Funds have been allocated to Dorset police for their planning team in 2007-08 and 2008-09 and accommodation through to 2012.

Any decisions will need to take account of the operational needs of the police and other security agencies, affordability with the total funding envelope and the need to secure value for money.

Driving Under Influence: Screening

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, on driving under influence, what assessment her Department has made of the discrepancy between the rate *(a)* at which screening tests are undertaken and *(b)* of positive tests; and if she will make a statement. [248061]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The police can require a person to take a screening breath test if they reasonably suspect that person of drink driving, or of committing a moving traffic offence or of driving a vehicle involved in a road traffic accident. Use of this power is an operational matter for the police. The percentage of tests which are positive can be affected by various factors, including the numbers drink driving, the number of tests administered and where, when and on which motorists the police administer them.

Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantities of *(a)* class A, *(b)* class B and *(c)* class C drugs have been seized by the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each of the last two years. [245949]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SOCA published details of class A drug seizures for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 in its last two annual reports. These reported seizures flowing from SOCA's work of in excess of 74 tonnes and 89 tonnes respectively.

SOCA has not published details of class B or class C interdictions in general but has provided details of cannabis interdictions in its last two annual reports. The 2006-07 Annual Report stated that 10 tonnes of cannabis was seized as a result of UK-based operations. The

2007-08 Annual Report stated that 30 tonnes of cannabis was seized as a result of both UK and overseas based operations.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) publishes guidance to assist its officers on the circumstances in which a drugs seizure conducted by another agency is to be treated as having been made principally as a result of SOCA activity and information supplied by SOCA. [245957]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SOCA provides its officers with clear guidance on the recording of drugs seizures, to ensure they are recorded only in cases where SOCA has direct responsibility, or where the seizure was made principally as a result of information provided by SOCA.

Drug seizures that are included in SOCA totals for management information purposes must have emanated from tasked SOCA operations. The circumstances in which seizures made by other agencies are also included are:

where another agency is asked to carry out the seizure on behalf of SOCA for reasons of operational sensitivity; or

where SOCA does not have the power to seize drugs but passes information onto another (usually foreign) law enforcement agency to enable the seizure to be effected.

Drugs: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of young people who took *(a)* cocaine and *(b)* ecstasy in each of the last 10 years. [248611]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are two primary sources of statistics on the use of illicit drugs by young people: the British Crime Survey (which covers England and Wales) and the Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among young people in England.

Table 1 provides data from the British Crime Survey for the proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 reporting the use of any cocaine in the last year between 1998 and 2007-08.

Table 2 provides additional data from the Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use data for the proportion of 11-15-year-olds who reported taking cocaine in the past year between 2001 and 2007.

Table 1: Proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds reporting use of cocaine and ecstasy, 1998 to 2007-08 BCS

Percentage

	1998	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Any cocaine	3.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.9	6.1	5.0
Ecstasy	5.1	5.6	6.8	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.3	4.8	3.9
Unweighted base	1,246	1,468	3,995	4,227	5,351	6,196	5,892	5,706	5,767

Source:
1999 to 2007-08 BCS (self-completion modules).

Table 2: Proportion of 11 to 15-year-olds reporting use of cocaine and ecstasy, 2001-07: Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Percentage

	200	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Cocaine	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.6	1.8
Ecstacy	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.3

Source:
Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among young people in England, 2001 to 2007

Entry Clearances: Macedonia

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visa applications the UK has *(a)* received and *(b)* granted from Macedonian nationals in each of the last five years. [247731]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The information requested is set out in the following table.

Nationality: Macedonia

	Applications	*Issued*
2004	3,602	2,852
2005	3,391	2,829
2006	3,864	3,326
2007	3,698	3,569
2008	3,834	3,493

Note:
Data is unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Extradition: Human Rights

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how often the Government review its bilateral extradition treaties to take into account changing human rights situations in the countries with which the treaties have been agreed. [248616]

Meg Hillier: The Extradition Act 2003 contains robust human rights safeguards. If the district judge in the UK decides that to order a person's extradition would result in a flagrant breach of the person's convention rights within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998, the judge must order the person's discharge from extradition proceedings.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which criminal offences *(a)* a fixed penalty notice and *(b)* a penalty notice for disorder can be given; and in respect of which offences such notices were not available before 1997. [248100]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Road traffic offences committed in England, Wales and Scotland for which a fixed penalty may be offered are listed in Schedule 3 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 2008. Other fixed penalty offences are created under several different Acts of Parliament and in respect of a diverse range of offences which are not the responsibility of the Home Office.

Offences for which a penalty notice for disorder (pnd) is available in England and Wales are listed in the Table in Section 1 (1) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, as amended. PNDs were not available before 1997.

The following road traffic offences have been added to the fixed penalty system since 1997:

Overtaking a moving or stationary vehicle on a zebra, pelican or puffin crossing contrary to regulation 24 of the Zebra, Pelican and Puffin Pedestrian Crossings Regulations and General Directions 1997 (three offences)

Failure to fix a registration mark to a vehicle in accordance with the requirements of regulation 17 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971

Driving on the footway contrary to section 72 of the Highways Act 1835 or section 129 (5) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984

Carrying more than one person on a pedal cycle contrary to section 24 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (RTA)[1]

Cycling on the pavement contrary to section 72 of the Highways Act 1835[1]

Using a hand held phone while driving contrary to regulation 110 of the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) (No4) Regulations 2003

Failing to supply details necessary to identify an offending driver contrary to section 172, RTA

Having no MOT certificate contrary to section 47,RTA

Having no insurance contrary to section 43 ,RTA

Overtaking a stationary or moving vehicle in the controlled area of a toucan crossing, contrary to regulations 27 and 28 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002

Failure to comply with the Motor Cycles (Eye Protectors) Regulations 1999

[1] These two offences were not added to the fixed penalty system in Scotland.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the prison population in England and Wales has a profile on the national DNA database. [241664]

Jacqui Smith: The purpose of the national DNA database (NDNAD) is to match DNA profiles taken from individuals with those taken from crime scenes. It therefore holds only the information necessary for this function, and does not contain criminal records or information on whether those on it are in prison.

There are good reasons for believing that the great majority of the prison population has a profile on the NDNAD. Police forces have had the power to retain DNA taken from those convicted of recordable offences since the establishment of the DNA database in 1995. For the first few years this power was exercised in relation to more serious offenders, but from 2000 onwards additional funding was made available under the DNA expansion programme to make it standard practice to take samples from all offenders. In April 2004, an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 came into effect which extended powers to take DNA samples to all those arrested for recordable offences. Following this, taking a DNA sample in the custody suite has become routine procedure. In addition, two prisoner sampling projects have been undertaken, most recently in 2003, to take DNA from any prisoner who had not already been sampled, for example because they had been imprisoned before DNA sampling was widely practiced.

Nevertheless, we are determined to ensure that the most serious offenders are on the NDNAD. On 16 December 2008 I announced that we will work with the police to continue to increase the number of convicted offenders on the NDNAD. This will focus on those convicted of serious offences and will include taking DNA from offenders in prison for rape and murder not already on the NDNAD.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government have spent on raising awareness of human trafficking in each of the last five years. [243317]

Jacqui Smith: Raising awareness of human trafficking is central to our approach to combating human trafficking. This is an issue that is being led by the UK Human Trafficking Centre through the development of its Blue Blindfold campaign and its work to increase awareness among law enforcement agencies. Any costs associated with this work has been met from within the overall budget of the UKHTC. Additionally, much work has been undertaken to raise awareness within the relevant law enforcement and other agencies which are likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking. The costs associated with this work have been met from within existing budgets.

In addition to these costs we have spent £136,000 on raising awareness through a project run in conjunction with the International Organisation for Migration in Romania and Bulgaria and on the "Walk in a Punter" poster campaign in Nottingham and London in 2008.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-British citizens convicted of human trafficking offences have been deported from Britain in each of the last five years. [243318]

Jacqui Smith: Records of deportation of those who have been convicted of crime are held on a generic offences database. It is not possible to disaggregate those convicted of human trafficking from a range of other offences.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has provided for funding human trafficking investigations in each of the last five years. [243329]

Jacqui Smith: Since 2006 we have invested a total of £4.646 million in the law enforcement response to human trafficking. This includes the doubling of the budget for the UK Human Trafficking Centre from £843,000 to

£1.7 million for this year, £1.7 million to the Metropolitan police for Operation Maxim, including their human trafficking team in 2007-08, the fund of £1.678 million this year which is administered by ACPO—the Association of Chief Police Officers—and the £435,000 for the Metropolitan Police Service to assist them in the their effort to mainstream the work of the trafficking into their existing budget.

The Serous Organised Crime Agency receive a total of £400 million in order to combat organised crime including that focused on immigration related matters such as human trafficking. This work is being taken forward through the co-ordination of two inter-agency programmes of activity to reduce such crime at source and key points overseas and to reduce the exploitation of migrants within the UK. Additionally, we provided a total of £60 million under Reflex for time limited projects to tackle organised immigration crime under the 2002 spending review period.

Human trafficking is core police business and as such forces are expected to meet operational costs of undertaking this work from within existing budgets. Historically, we provided a central funding stream to encourage forces to increase their efforts on organised immigration crime, including human trafficking.

It is not possible to disaggregate this funding to give an accurate figure for the amount dedicated to human trafficking work for the period 2004 to 2006.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on policy to combat human trafficking. [247693]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We have a regular dialogue with a range of interested groups from all sectors and with our partner organisations both nationally and internationally and on 17 December we ratified the Council of Europe convention on action against trafficking in human beings.

Our victim-centred policy on human trafficking is set out in the UK Action Plan and progress on the action points contained within it continues to be overseen by the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group.

Human Trafficking: Sentencing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will provide a breakdown of the sentences issued to those convicted of human trafficking offences in each of the last five years by category and length of sentence. [243299]

Jacqui Smith: Of the 92 convictions for human trafficking recorded by the UK Human Trafficking Centre all of which are under sections 57-59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 the sentences passed by year are as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Suspended	—	—	1	—	4
12 months or under	—	—	—	3	3
1-3 years	3	3	6	6	5
4-6 years	—	6	6	11	5
7-9 years	—	4	9	3	2
10-12 years	—	5	—	1	—
13-14 years	—	—	1	—	—
Over 14 years	—	2	—	—	—

In addition in 2008 there have been four convictions for trafficking for the purpose of forced labour for which we are awaiting confirmation of the sentences received.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average sentence was for those convicted of human trafficking offences as a result of *(a)* Operation Pentameter 1 and *(b)* Operation Pentameter 2. [243301]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to disaggregate the sentences arising from the named operations from those sentences passed on those convicted of human trafficking as part of other operations.

Identity Cards: Fees and Charges

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effect on the cost to the public purse of revenue from charges for *(a)* identity cards, *(b)* biometric passports and *(c)* registration of biometric information in each of the next 10 years. [243274]

Jacqui Smith: The latest projected estimates for the cost of issuing identity cards are published in the National Identity Scheme Cost Report.

A copy of the latest report published on 6 November 2008 may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Identity Cards: Foreigners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of issuing identity cards to foreign nationals in each of the five years from 2010-11. [243420]

Jacqui Smith: The latest projected estimates for the cost of issuing identity cards are published in the National Identity Scheme Cost Report.

A copy of the reports may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Identity Cards: Government Departments

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely levels of take-up of identity (ID) card verification across Government; what estimate she has made of the number of agencies which expect to use ID card verification when the scheme is rolled out; and how many separate locations in each agency are likely to need an ID card reader; [243315]

(2) which of her Department's agencies she expects to use identity card verification when the scheme is rolled out; and what estimate she has made of the number of separate locations in each agency which will require an identity card reader. [243517]

Jacqui Smith: Identity cards will make it easier for individuals to prove their identity quickly, securely and reliably when using public services. A key purpose of the National Identity Register, as laid out in the Identity Cards Act, is to help identity verification so as to secure the efficient and effective provision of public services. Details of the secondary legislation needed to introduce identity cards and for information to be provided from the Register is set out in "Identity Cards Act Secondary Legislation: A Consultation" which may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/downloads/NIS_Legislation.pdf

Government agencies will all be able to make use of identity cards to verify identity through a visual check, as they do now for passports. It will be a matter for individual agencies to determine at what point in the future there is a case for the introduction of any further systems which might include identity card readers. The Identity and Passport Service will continue to work with other Government Departments to establish how each organisation may make the best use of the National Identity Scheme.

Immigration: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Home Office plans to consult on the no recourse to public funds rule. [247664]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 January 2009]*: There are currently no plans to launch a consultation on migrant women who are victims of domestic violence and have no recourse to public funds.

The development of a new scheme, where those supporting victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds may be eligible to receive financial support towards their housing and living costs, is currently being negotiated in partnership with the UKBA, the No Recourse to Public Funds Network and stakeholders.

Language Analysis

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 48WS, on language analysis, what percentage of persons claiming asylum from Eritrea and Somalia who were subject to language analysis had their claim refused on the basis of language analysis; and what estimate her Department has made of the likely effect of the introduction of language analysis on applications from Afghan nationals. [244230]

Mr. Woolas: No asylum claim from a person claiming to be of Eritrean or Somali nationality has been refused on the basis of language analysis alone. Language analysis is a tool used by asylum case-owners in the UK Border Agency to help in the decision making process. It is only one of several factors that contribute to grant or refusal.

Where there is a suspicion that a person claiming to be from Afghanistan is not an Afghan national that person will be asked to take part in a language analysis interview. It is anticipated that language analysis will identify Afghan claimants who are in fact nationals of other countries and that this procedure will deter others from making false claims of Afghan nationality.

Licensed Premises: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police have closed disorderly and noisy premises with an on-licence to sell alcohol in each of the last five years. [247598]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures relating to the closure of disorderly or noisy premises by the police are not collected centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 27 October 2008 regarding his constituent Ms Sharon Singiri of Chelmsford. [246982]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 16 January 2009.

Metropolitan Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Association of Chief Police Officers members at the rank of commander and above in the Metropolitan police have been the subject of criminal or disciplinary investigations since January 2005; and which such officers have been suspended from duty following such investigation. [247329]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* warnings and *(b)* cautions have been issued related to the possession of knives in each of the last 10 years; how many prosecutions have been brought; and how many convictions have been secured for such offences. [244982]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 18 December 2009]*: Information on the number of defendants issued with a caution, proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty at all courts and for offences relating to possession of a knife covering the years 1998 to 2007 (latest available), can be viewed in the following table.

From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of defendants issued with a caution, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possession of a knife[1] 2005

	Caution	Proceeded against	Found guilty
1998	1,976	4,988	3,805
1999	1,663	4,566	3,548
2000[2]	1,758	4,625	3,531
2001	1,652	5,823	4,361
2002	1,905	6,963	5,338
2003	1,746	6,928	5,396
2004	2,376	7,352	5,899
2005	3,194	7,319	6,005
2006	3,503	7,699	6,369
2007	3,460	7,406	6,160

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

[4] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions: Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3. Having an article with blade or point in public place. Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (ES/16a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1). Having an article with blade or point on school premises.

[5] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

Source:
OCJR - E & A. Office for Criminal Justice Reform - Evidence & Analysis Unit

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* warnings were given, *(b)* cautions were issued and *(c)* prosecutions were brought for the illegal possession of knives in each of the last three years, broken down by police force area. [264852]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of offenders cautioned for illegal knife possession and the number of defendants proceeded against for the same offences, from 2005 to 2007 (the latest available), broken down by police force area, are in the following tables.

From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded[1] against at magistrates courts for knife possession offences[2], England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3]

Force	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	155	214	200
Bedfordshire	99	74	81
Cambridgeshire	72	83	65
Cheshire	87	101	121
City of London	21	16	10
Cleveland	85	90	109
Cumbria	59	50	51
Derbyshire	100	94	123
Devon and Cornwall	167	138	171
Dorset	76	81	78
Durham	101	96	107
Essex	273	217	182
Gloucestershire	47	48	48
Greater Manchester	391	441	436
Hampshire	182	194	198
Hertfordshire	127	105	76
Humberside	123	135	170
Kent	9	3	2
Lancashire	182	169	176
Leicestershire	105	140	135
Lincolnshire	71	85	54
Merseyside	240	253	250
Metropolitan Police	2,113	2,099	1,810
Norfolk	91	80	96
North Yorkshire	80	70	62
Northamptonshire	6	1	3
Northumbria	241	246	318
Nottinghamshire	151	176	184
South Yorkshire	197	169	179
Staffordshire	76	111	108
Suffolk	84	123	97
Surrey	38	47	65
Sussex	139	165	165
Thames Valley	192	227	165
Warwickshire	30	38	32
West Mercia	112	124	117
West Midlands	386	469	485
West Yorkshire	214	214	227
Wiltshire	66	82	53
Dyfed-Powys	54	39	51
Gwent	45	74	77
North Wales	85	131	101
South Wales	147	187	164

Number of defendants proceeded[1] against at magistrates courts for knife possession offences[2], England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3]

Force	2005	2006	2007
England and Wales	7,319	7,699	7,404

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Includes the following offences and statutes;
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for knife possession offences[2], England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by police force area[3,4]

Force	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	79	157	147
Bedfordshire	123	131	82
Cambridgeshire	40	36	43
Cheshire	19	19	14
City of London	22	13	11
Cleveland	19	32	43
Cumbria	12	15	20
Derbyshire	10	26	42
Devon and Cornwall	100	82	81
Dorset	6	15	36
Durham	21	44	50
Essex	32	54	17
Gloucestershire	20	26	29
Greater Manchester	150	166	168
Hampshire	85	77	75
Hertfordshire	32	42	64
Humberside	44	50	52
Kent	60	64	65
Lancashire	84	91	74
Leicestershire	34	56	46
Lincolnshire	32	41	49
Merseyside	91	62	113
Metropolitan Police	569	710	750
Norfolk	35	47	46
North Yorkshire	25	24	20
Northamptonshire	36	50	59
Northumbria	81	119	93
Nottinghamshire	65	108	91
South Yorkshire	93	123	131
Staffordshire	3	6	19
Suffolk	18	26	31
Surrey	26	34	47
Sussex	478	248	218
Thames Valley	94	115	117
Warwickshire	18	28	13
West Mercia	50	76	55
West Midlands	178	229	199
West Yorkshire	72	68	72
Wiltshire	17	17	15
Dyfed-Powys	70	73	53
Gwent	19	31	36
North Wales	67	50	47
South Wales	25	22	27
England and Wales	3,154	3,503	3,460

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[2] Includes the following offences and statutes;
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).
[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Organised Crime: Illegal Broadcasting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the likelihood of a link between illegal radio broadcasting and organised criminal gangs. [246716]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We are unaware of a linkage between illegal radio broadcasting and serious organised criminality.

Passports: Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many claims for compensation have been received by her Department from individuals relating to passport applications and renewals in each of the last five years; and how much her Department paid in compensation in each such year. [247163]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* While the value of compensation paid out to individuals relating to all passport application types over the last five years

is held, the number of compensation claims received by the Identity and Passport Service is not recorded.

The value of compensation payments made to the public by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five financial years are as follows:

	Claims	Value (£)
2003-04	2,300	79,000
2004-05	3,300	145,000
2005-06	3,400	129,000
2006-07	3,000	123,000
2007-08	2,500	77,000

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Identity and Passport Service has paid in compensation for delays in customers receiving passports in each year since 1997. [248009]

Meg Hillier: It would not be possible to split out compensation payments for delays without incurring disproportionate cost. However the total compensation payments made to the public by the Identity and Passport Service in each year since 1997 is as follows:

	£
1997-98	49,000
1998-99	80,000
1999-2000	402,000
2000-01	115,000
2001-02	83,000
2002-03	119,000
2003-04	79,000
2004-05	145,000
2005-06	129,000
2006-07	123,000
2007-08	77,000

Personation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of levels of identity fraud; and what recent assessment she has made of public awareness of measures to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of identity fraud. [248648]

Meg Hillier: British Crime Survey figures for 2006-07 show that 2 per cent. of those surveyed had been victims of identity fraud and our latest estimate is that identity fraud cost the UK economy at least £1.2 billion in the same year.

We are involved in a multi-agency approach through the Identity Fraud Communications Awareness Group to raise public awareness of identity fraud. The group has produced the following website:

www.identitytheft.org.uk

which currently averages nearly 8,000 visits per week, and a leaflet, of which over 13 million copies are in circulation.

The Government funded £29 million to implement the recommendations of the Fraud Review, which included the creation of a National Fraud Strategic Authority (NFSA) launched on 1 October 2008. We are currently working with the NFSA on ways of assessing the effectiveness of our awareness raising activity.

Police: Conferences

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many multi-agency risk assessment conferences were held in each police authority in England and Wales in the last 12 months; which agencies took part in each conference; and what the cost of such conferences was to *(a)* police forces and *(b)* other public bodies in that period. [247665]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect this information. Some of the information is available from the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).

Police: Convictions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many serving police officers in *(a)* Hertfordshire, *(b)* City of London, *(c)* Metropolitan, *(d)* Merseyside and *(e)* Greater Manchester Police had previous convictions before joining the Police Service in each year since 2000; and how many have been convicted since joining the Police Service in each year. [248000]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Police: Dogs

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what operating protocols apply to UK Border Agency staff in circumstances where a *(a)* man and *(b)* woman belonging to a faith which considers dogs be unclean refuses to be the subject of a search using a dog when entering the UK. [247770]

Mr. Woolas: In instances where any traveller refuses to be screened by a dog, the handler will refer the individual, or group of individuals, to a member of UKBA staff, who may question or examine that traveller further. We do not insist on a traveller being screened by a detector dog.

Police: Medals

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to award long service medals to police officers after 20 years of service; and if she will make a statement. [248490]

Mr. Coaker: The issue of reducing the qualifying period is the subject of an ongoing review and the Home Office will lead a consultation exercise.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dedicated traffic police are deployed on the motorway and trunk road network in England; and what the equivalent figure was for *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [248852]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of dedicated traffic police officers is not collected centrally. The available data are the numbers of full-time equivalent police officers primarily employed in the function traffic. On 31 March 2006 there were 6,498, on 31 March 2007, 6,412 and on 31 March 2008, 6,299. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The definition does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

The deployment of officers to specific areas is a matter for individual chief officers.

Police: Crime and Policing Representatives

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the future annual cost of providing allowances to directly elected crime and policing representatives as proposed in the Policing Green Paper. [244187]

Mr. Coaker: The Government have announced that they do not intend to proceed with their proposals for directly elected crime and policing representatives at this time.

Police: Vetting

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what vetting takes place to ensure that persons with previous convictions are not employed by the police force; and if she will make a statement. [247739]

Mr. Coaker: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) is responsible for vetting policy. Forces should not recruit people with cautions and convictions which may call into question the integrity of the applicant or the Police Service.

Prior to recruitment, thorough checks are made to ascertain if anything is known to the detriment of the applicant, spouse, partner, close relatives or other associates which could heighten vulnerability or cause embarrassment to the Police Service.

Checks are conducted through the Police National Computer, Criminal History System, Criminal Information System, counter terrorism databases and local intelligence, as well as military and police Professional Standards databases where necessary.

Responsibility for recruitment is a matter for individual Chief Police Officers, and it is for each police force to make a decision on an individual basis against the national guidance.

Proceeds of Crime: Terrorism

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been collected relating to the suspected financing of terrorism through the suspicious activity reports regime since its creation. [247623]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: Statistics on the amount of money seized as a result of information received through Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) on the suspected financing of terrorism have been collected by the National Terrorist Financial Investigation Unit (NTFIU) of the Metropolitan Police since September 2006. Since that date, £1,769,955 has been seized by the NTFIU for further investigation into the origins of the money and the intentions of the transacting parties as a result of SARs of suspected terrorist financing having been passed onto them from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). It would not be appropriate to provide further details of the transactions or a breakdown of this figure due to the need to protect ongoing investigations.

Prostitution

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had on policy on prostitution. [247694]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office recently conducted a comprehensive review into tackling the demand for prostitution, the findings of which were published on 19 November. This involved discussions with a range of organisations and individuals, including other Government Departments, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service as well as organisations supporting individuals involved in prostitution.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated value of assets in cases adopted for civil recovery or tax action from other law enforcement agencies by the Serious Organised Crime Agency was in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the first six months of this financial year. [243621]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency estimates the potential value of assets when adopting a case for civil recovery, but does not collate these data as a performance indicator. It would be time consuming to collate these data manually from case files and this would be of no operational value. The first stage in a case at which SOCA reports on the estimated value of assets is when they are frozen or under restraint. Information on frozen and restrained assets will be published in SOCA's annual report.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many cases were referred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency by other law enforcement agencies for civil recovery or taxation investigation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK in the first six months of 2008-09; [243782]

(2) what the value of assets restrained in cases which the Serious Organised Crime Agency has adopted in the first six months of 2008-09 in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the UK; [243627]

(3) in how many cases adopted by the Serious Organised Crime Agency action has been taken to restrain assets in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland, in the first six months of 2008-09. [244063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures relating to the Serious Organised Crime Agency's UK-wide asset recovery performance for the financial year 2008-09 are subject to internal validation and will be included in their annual report for 2008-09, when published.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases have been referred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) by law enforcement agencies in England and Wales for criminal confiscation investigation in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* nationwide in the first six months of 2008-09; in how many of those cases SOCA has agreed to adoption for such investigation and action; what the estimated value of the assets in the cases adopted for civil recovery or tax action from other law enforcement agencies is; in how many such cases action has already been taken to restrain assets; and what the value of assets restrained in such cases is. [243849]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under the provisions of the Serious Crime Act 2007, the Serious Organised Crime Agency was not given the remit or powers to assist partner agencies with criminal confiscation cases in the same way as the Assets Recovery Agency. As a consequence SOCA is not in a position to support partner agencies by taking criminal case referrals in the same way that ARA did. SOCA considers requests from partners for advice or investigative assistance in criminal confiscation cases on a case-by-case basis, but there is no referral or adoption process.

ARA's criminal confiscation cases were transferred to SOCA with the merger. SOCA has retained ARA's full powers in relation to these specific cases, up until the point of the completion. SOCA does not however have ARA's full powers in relation to criminal confiscation cases for SOCA-initiated cases.

Speed Limits: Enforcement

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department provides to police forces on enforcement of 20 miles per hour zones. [247670]

Mr. Coaker: The enforcement of any speed limit is an operational matter for the police, and the Department has not issued guidance in this area. We would however expect 20 mph zones to be largely self-enforcing through traffic calming measures.

The decision to introduce a 20 mph zone and the installation of traffic calming measures are matters for individual local authorities. The Department for Transport issues guidance to local authorities on the factors to take into account in reaching such decisions, including the need to consult with the police and other interested parties.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were investigated by the Complaints Audit Committee of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor in each of the last three years. [241858]

Jacqui Smith: The Complaints Audit Committee (CAC) did not investigate individual complaints. The Committee's remit was to monitor the effectiveness of the UK Border Agency's procedures for investigating serious complaints about the conduct and efficiency of its staff and to comment on quality of service issues.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the UK Border Agency to reply to the letter of 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North, reference 1032165 and CTS 822098/8. [248179]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to the hon. Member on 12 January 2009.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 20 January 2009

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-Semitic incidents or attacks have been reported in *(a)* England, *(b)* Chipping Barnet constituency and *(c)* the London Borough of Barnet in the last 14 days. [247156]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics.

The recorded crime statistics only hold data for racially or religiously aggravated offences as defined by law. Specific details relating to the victim or alleged offender are not collected.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Glasgow

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-social behaviour orders were issued in Glasgow North West constituency in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [248539]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not held by the Home Office.

Data on the number of ASBOs issued in Scotland are a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Community Policing

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the mechanism is for ensuring that neighbourhood policing teams spend at least 80 per cent. of their time visibly working on their patch. [247096]

Mr. Coaker: All police forces across England and Wales have now implemented the Policing Pledge. The Pledge gives the public a clear minimum standard of service and states that neighbourhood policing teams will spend at least 80 per cent. of their time visibly working on behalf of the public in their neighbourhood.

The Policing Green Paper explained the new relationship between the Government, police and public. The Home Office has now adopted a more strategic role allowing for grassroots accountability and an enhanced role for Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) in providing public assurance about the quality and standard of policing in all forces. Police authorities will wish to be satisfied that the Pledge is being delivered for local people and HMIC will validate the delivery of the Pledge through their inspection process.

Additionally, if the public do not feel the standards within the Pledge are being met they can raise it locally with the police themselves or through their police authority.

Crime: Maps

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces provide crime maps on their websites which plot individual crimes at street level. [247091]

Mr. Coaker: The Information Commissioner does not recommend plotting individual crimes at street level because of the potential identification of individuals and premises. All 43 forces in England and Wales therefore publish crime maps to, at least, ward level, with information on burglary, robbery, theft, vehicle crime, violent crime and antisocial behaviour incidents.

Legislation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many new offences were created by Home Office-sponsored legislation between *(a)* 1979 and 1996 and *(b)* 1997 and 2008. [248639]

Mr. Coaker: The number of criminal offences created in Home Office sponsored legislation since 1979 is not held centrally, and could be produced only at disproportionate cost in time and resources.

Metropolitan Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monthly cost, including opportunity cost, of suspending a Metropolitan Police commander on full pay and expenses is. [247303]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. This is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Metropolitan Police: Racial Discrimination

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the progress made in the investigation of complaints made by the Metropolitan Black Police Association against members of the Metropolitan Police Authority. [247681]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold this information. This is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority.

Police: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department has issued on whistle blowing policy in relation to individuals working in child protection in police authorities; and if she will make a statement. [247813]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not issue guidance on internal police policy; this is a matter for chief officers and their police authorities.

However, the general practice is for police officers working in a multi-agency team who have concerns about work practices or the conduct of colleagues within the team, to raise these concerns through their usual

management channels or with their Professional Standards Department, which they may contact through a confidential line if necessary.

If police officers suspect a fellow officer of acting in a way that could result in disciplinary or criminal proceedings, and feels unable to raise these concerns through usual procedures, they may raise their concerns within their force or directly to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, using their dedicated report line.

Police: Horses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many mounted police there are in the Metropolitan Police. [247695]

Mr. Coaker: There were 145 full-time equivalent police officers whose primary function was listed as "mounted" in the Metropolitan Police Service as at 31 March 2008.

Police: Misconduct

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what reasons the Metropolitan Police Authority gave to her Department for its decision not to conduct a full case review of Operation Helios. [247678]

Mr. Coaker: The implementation of the recommendations from the Morris Inquiry is a matter for the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), which commissioned the inquiry.

The Inquiry recommended that there should be an independent full case review of Operation Helios, to examine the issue of race discrimination. This coincided with an investigation conducted by Essex police, with Independent Police Complaints Commission oversight, into Operation Helios, which included in its terms of reference that "allegations of racism made by the complainants will be fully addressed".

On receipt of the report from Essex police, the Metropolitan Police Authority considered that no further action was required to meet the Morris Inquiry recommendation.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many traffic police officers are assigned to duties in each London borough. [247037]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan police employed 612 officers (full-time equivalent) whose primary function was listed as traffic as at 31 March 2008. City of London police employed 26 such officers on the given date. The requested data are not collected by London borough.

Police: Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police *(a)* officers, *(b)* constables, *(c)* sergeants and *(d)* community support officers were working in Romford constituency in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [247692]

Mr. Coaker: Police strength data are not collected by parliamentary constituency areas. Data are collected at the basic command unit (BCU) level and at the force level. Romford is within the Havering BCU.

The information requested is published annually in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" copies of which are available online and in the Library of the House.

BCU data are not collected by police rank and so data relating to Havering BCU for all officers and for PCSOs are given in the following links:

31 March 2007

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307add_tab.xls.

31 March 2008

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808add_tab.xls.

Data for the police ranks requested are collected at the force level and so data relating to the Metropolitan Police Service for each officer rank (Table 4) and for PCSOs (Table 10a) are given in the following links:

31 March 2007

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1307.pdf

31 March 2008

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0808.pdf.

Police: Standards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what costs she estimates would be incurred in holding elections for crime and policing representatives across England and Wales as proposed in the Policing Green Paper. [244188]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have announced that they do not intend to proceed with their proposals for directly elected crime and policing representatives at this time.

Procedures Relating to Soham Murders Inquiry

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the next progress report on the implementation of the Bichard Inquiry recommendations will be published. [247212]

Mr. Coaker: The Government reported on the outstanding Bichard Inquiry recommendations as part of their full response to the Magee Review of Criminality Information, which was presented to Parliament on 4 December 2008.

Future updates on progress will be provided as part of reporting on the broader improvement agenda for criminality information recommended in the Magee Review.

Prostitution

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for offences in relation to brothels there were in each of the last five years. [248024]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person, burglary, robbery and sexual offences. From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Tackling the Demand for Prostitution Review of November 2008, what programmes have been carried out in order to raise awareness among sex-buyers about the extent of trafficking for sexual exploitation. [248038]

Mr. Alan Campbell: During the course of the Tackling Demand Review, a pilot marketing campaign, was conducted in Westminster and Nottingham. The experience of this campaign led to the Review's recommendation that the Government should consider running a marketing campaign aimed specifically at sex buyers to raise awareness about trafficking for sexual exploitation. The Government have accepted this recommendation and will run this campaign to support the implementation of the Review's other recommendations.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the date was of the most recent arrest under counter-terrorism legislation following which a suspect was held in pre-charge detention for over *(a)* 14 days and *(b)* 28 days. [247162]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The dates of arrest are as follows:

(a) Over 14 days: 30 June 2007

(b) 27-28 days: 23 August 2006

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the date of arrest was for each individual who has been held in pre-charge detention under anti-terrorism legislation for more than 14 days. [247164]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The dates of arrest are as follows:

Six individuals were arrested on 9 August 2006;

Three individuals were arrested on 10 August 2006;

One individual was arrested on 23 August 2006; and

One individual was arrested on 30 June 2007.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been stopped and searched under the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 since it came into force. [247688]

Mr. Coaker: There are no powers contained within the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 to stop and search. Stops and searches are conducted under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Information on the number of these searches conducted from 2000-01 to 2006-07 (latest available) are provided in the table. Information for 2007-08 is due to be published in April 2009 and information for 2008-09 (when the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008 came into force) is due to be published before the end of 2009-10.

Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[1]) England and Wales, 2000-01 to 2006-07

Number

	Stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism (Total searches)
2000-01	6,400
2001-02	10,200
2002-03	32,100
2003-04	33,800
2004-05[2]	37,000
2005-06	50,000
2006-07	41,900

[1] Formerly sections 13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and repealed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (which came into force on 19 February 2001).

[2] Figures updated since publication of the 2004-05 Bulletin.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248076]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office has not commissioned or delivered coaching to Ministers or civil servants in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

Driving Under Influence: Accidents

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many road traffic accidents which resulted in one or more fatalities in 2007 there were in Northern Ireland in which excessive alcohol was assessed to have been a contributory factor. [248116]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

International Monitoring Commission

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the next International Monitoring Commission report is expected; and whether he expects it to include a section on the seizure in County Meath in the Irish Republic of Semtex during December 2008. [248113]

Paul Goggins: The next Independent Monitoring Commission report is expected in May 2009 in line with its six monthly reporting cycle. The IMC is an independent body and the contents of reports are a matter for the Commissioners. Their practice has been to refer to any events in the period reported on which they judge to be relevant to their remit.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the 50/50 recruitment policy regarding the Police Service of Northern Ireland in Northern Ireland to be concluded and replaced with the merit principle of recruitment. [248112]

Paul Goggins: As reaffirmed by the St. Andrews Agreement, our commitment to the continuation of the 50:50 provisions is strictly time bound and is focused on our objective of reaching 30 per cent. Catholic composition in the PSNI regulars by 2010-11. We remain on target to achieve this and ending the provision at that time.

Probation Board for Northern Ireland: Labour Turnover

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people *(a)* were recruited to and *(b)* retired from the Probation Board in Northern Ireland in 2008. [248424]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, which operates independently of Government. I would encourage the hon. Member to write directly to Brian McCaughey, Director of Probation, PBNI, 80-90 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1LD.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect Afghani parliamentarians who speak out in favour of the rights of women, children and other vulnerable populations from threats made against them; and if he will make a statement. [246544]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* Together with our EU partners, the UK is committed to improving the human rights situation in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government and judiciary are obliged by law to respect these commitments. As part of our broader efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Afghanistan, we are spending some £31 million on policing and rule of law activities during 2008-09.

The duty of protecting Afghanistan's citizens, including legislators, lies first and foremost with the Government of Afghanistan. Our continued presence in Afghanistan, providing both military (over 8,000 troops) and development/reconstruction assistance, helps to improve security for all of Afghanistan's citizens. As part of our wider efforts to improve the overall security situation and respect for law and order, we encourage the Afghan authorities to take seriously any credible threats against human rights defenders. Where appropriate, we also raise individual human rights cases with the government of Afghanistan, both publicly and in private. We also provide financial support to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, which promotes, protects and monitors human rights.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department records the *(a)* location at and *(b)* unit with which Colombian military personnel serve once they have completed a period of training in the UK; and whether it records the type of activity undertaken by such personnel in the course of their military career. [244626]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 999W.

Serbia: Entry Clearances

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on proposals for the liberalisation of the EU visa regime for Serbian citizens; when he expects a decision to be taken on these proposals; and if he will make a statement. [240841]

David Miliband: The UK does not participate in the EU common Schengen acquis or in decisions to liberalise the Schengen visa regime, including in respect of Serbia.

Serbia's progress towards liberalisation of the Schengen visa regime for Serbian citizens will be determined by the fulfilment of all criteria specified in the EU Visa Liberalisation Roadmap which the government of Serbia agreed with the EU in June 2008. The EU intends to report annually on the progress made by Serbia against the Visa Liberalisation Roadmap.

Serbian nationals have been subject to a UK visa regime since 1991. The UK Border Agency undertook a comprehensive review of the UK's visa regimes, the Visa Waiver Test, in 2007. The results of this review, in the context of Serbia, mean the Government have no plans at present to lift the visa requirements for Serbian citizens.

USA: Capital Punishment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations have been made to the US Administration on behalf of the death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. [244985]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* To date there have been no representations made on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal. While we and our EU partners continue to oppose the use of the death penalty around the world, including in the US, this case has not been brought to the attention of the EU as a case which violates the minimum standards—as set out in the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty—which the EU uses to determine when to intervene in individual cases.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Pay

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the salary bill for the Scotland Office was for its staff in all locations in each quarter since 1999. [248511]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not hold records showing the breakdown of the salary bill by quarter, however the full year costs are shown in the following table.

	£000
SO and OAG	
1999-2000[1]	1,976
2000-01	3281
SO only	
2001-02	2,459
2002-03	2,842
2003-04	2,571
2004-05	2,182
2005-06	1,888
2006-07	1,889
2007-08	2,250

[1] Part year, the Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Access

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps are being taken to increase the accessibility of high culture to working-class people. [244824]

Barbara Follett: My Department continues to work closely with sponsored bodies responsible for culture to ensure that funding over the SR08 period is used to support the Government's objective to increase participation in culture by adults from a lower socio-economic background.

Arts Council England is conducting audience segmentation analysis to gather fresh data about which groups engage with the arts and will use this as the basis for a national campaign to encourage the broadest range of people to do so. English Heritage is also looking at barriers to engagement with the historic environment experienced by people in lower socio-economic groups. Through the Renaissance in the Regions programme the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) is seeking to increase participation and achieve greater diversity amongst the visitors to regional hub museums across England. Entry to DCMS-sponsored national museums and galleries has been free for all since 2001.

In September last year, 10 pathfinder Find Your Talent projects were set up with an investment of £25 million to test various ways to deliver a five-hour cultural offer to ensure that all children and young people aged 0-19 can access a wide range of high-quality artistic and cultural experiences. In November 2008, my Department announced the Free Theatre initiative which offers free tickets to young people up to age 26. Evaluations of the annual 'Heritage Open Days' initiative, indicate a significant increase in visitors from the lower socio-economic groups in 2006 and 2007 to those sites where records allow comparison with previous years.

The DCMS 'Taking Part' survey is being used to measure participation by adults from the priority groups. The most recent results, published in December 2008, indicate that the proportion of adults from lower socio-economic backgrounds attending a museum or gallery during the previous 12 months was 30.6 per cent., a 2.3 per cent. increase compared to the baseline established in 2005-06. For visits to historic environment sites the comparable figures were 59.4 per cent. attendance, an increase of 2.3 per cent. on the 2005-06 baseline. Attendance at arts events was 18.3 per cent. of this group with no significant statistical change on the baseline.

Arts: Apprentices

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have enrolled on Creative Britain apprenticeships; and if he will make a statement. [247495]

Andy Burnham: My Department's strategy for the creative economy, Creative Britain—New Talents for the New Economy, includes the ambition of working with employers and sector skills councils to establish up to 5000 apprenticeships in the creative industries by 2013.

To date, over 160 employers have signed up to offer the Creative Apprenticeship, a mix of on the job and off the job training with 13 apprenticeships started and a further 130 due to start later this year. There are also pilots with the BBC at Mediacity:uk and the Savile Row Tailors.

Once established, the National Apprenticeship Service will monitor starts and completions of all approved apprenticeships.

Creative Britain Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of the Creative Britain Review was to his Department; what financial contributions were made by other Government departments; and what staff costs were involved. [247435]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* In January 2007, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) commissioned the Work Foundation to produce Staying Ahead, a report analysing the economic performance of the Creative Industries in the UK. The cost of producing this report was approximately £84,000.

Following this report, DCMS, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) produced Creative Britain in February 2008, which outlined 26 commitments seeking to maximise the contribution of the Creative Industries to the UK economy. The costs of producing this document were approximately £74,000. Of this, BERR provided £30,000. It is difficult to estimate the staff costs as most of the officials from each Department involved (DCMS, BERR and DIUS) were engaged on other projects at the same time.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agency provides for staff. [249070]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has one directly operated catering outlet for its staff. The Royal Parks Agency, the Department's one executive agency, does not have any directly operated or franchised catering outlets for its staff.

Gaming: Licensing

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what changes he plans to make to licensing guidelines concerning gaming codes. [249092]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Commission have advised that on 1 October 2008 following an extensive consultation exercise, they published a revised version of their Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice (LCCP), which came into effect on 1 January 2009.

The LCCP can be viewed at the following web link:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/Client/detail.asp?ContentId=103

Since the publication of LCCP, the Gambling Commission has consulted on proposals to add a new licence condition and code of practice provision to LCCP. These proposals set out the requirement that holders of different categories of premises licences ensure that the gambling activity which corresponds to the licence type is actually offered as the primary activity at those premises. A supplement to LCCP setting out any new conditions and codes relating to this consultation will be published in due course.

ICT: Reviews

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates the Digital Britain Steering Board has met; what dates have been set for future meetings; which members of the Board were present at each meeting; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the most recent meeting. [248891]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Digital Britain Steering Board has met on the following dates: 14, 21, 28 November 2008, 5, 12 December 2008 and 9, 14 January 2009.

Further meetings are scheduled for: 23 January, 29 January, 13 February, 27 February, 13 March, 27 March, 10 April, 24 April, 8 May and 22 May 2009.

The meetings are confidential and it would therefore not be appropriate to publish attendance or the Minutes.

Sport England: Assets

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* land Sport England owns; and what estimate he has made of the value of such assets. [248891]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Sport England does not own any land or buildings outright. The Sports Council Trust Company, of which Sport England is a member and controlling share holder, owns the following land and buildings:

National centres: Bisham Abbey; Lilleshall and Plas y Brenin.

Regional offices: Ashland House, Crewkerne, Somerset; Caversham lake and boathouse facility and the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield.

The approximate net book value of land and buildings owned by the Sports Council Trust Company, as shown in the Sport England 31 March 2008 financial statements, is £107 million.

Sport England: Rrorganisation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the organisational changes within Sport England to be implemented. [249408]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that they are planning to complete their organisational change process by the end of March 2009, and they are currently on schedule to do so. However, some posts will be externally advertised and depending on their notice periods successful candidates may not all be in place.

Sports: Children

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to increase participation amongst under-16 year olds in *(a)* athletics, *(b)* badminton, *(c)* basketball, *(d)* cricket, *(e)* cycling, *(f)* gymnastics, *(g)* hockey, *(h)* netball, *(i)* rugby league, *(j)* rugby union, *(k)* squash, *(l)* tennis and *(m)* volleyball. [248592]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government's investment in PE and sport in schools has had significant success in increasing participation in these sports.

Schools were asked to indicate the range of sports provided by their school during the academic year. Details of the percentages of schools which provided the indicated sports are provided in the following table, highlighting the progression of school participation annually (academic year).

Percentage

	2003/04	2004/05 [1]	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Athletics	90	91	92	90	93
Badminton	31	32	35	37	39
Basketball	65	63	67	69	69
Cricket	85	85	89	90	90
Cycling	21	27	34	42	46
Gymnastics	94	93	95	95	94
Hockey	77	74	77	78	77
Netball	84	81	81	81	81
Rugby League (inc tag rugby)	12	11	12	13	14
Rugby Union (inc Tag Rugby)	67	71	74	66	68
Squash	5	5	6	7	7
Tennis	70	71	74	79	79
Volleyball	27	25	28	30	30

[1] Surveys prior to 2006/07 did not include 'tag rugby' in definition.

Base:

All schools (2003/04—6,574; 2004/05—11,400; 2005/06—16,990; 2006/07—21,745; 2007/08—21,631).

The following table shows the sports or activities which schools had club links to during the academic year.

Percentage

	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Athletics	32	33	36	40	43
Badminton	10	10	12	14	17
Basketball	27	25	28	28	30
Cricket	45	48	52	56	57
Cycling	4	5	6	8	10
Gymnastics	24	26	31	35	40
Hockey	20	19	22	23	25
Netball	26	26	29	30	32
Rugby League (inc. tag rugby)	10	9	10	[1]10	20
Rugby Union (inc. tag rugby)	39	41	46	44	48
Squash	5	5	4	5	6
Tennis	27	30	36	39	40
Volleyball	3	2	2	3	4

[1] Surveys prior to 2006/07 did not include 'tag rugby' in definition.

Base:

All schools (2003/04—6,574; 2004/05—11,400; 2005/06—16,900; 2006/07—21,745; 2007/08—21,631)

Our PE and Sport Strategy for Young People will continue that success story, and we are investing over £780 million to 2010-11 to offer five hours of sport a week. The National Governing Bodies of Sport will receive ring-fenced funding as part of their Whole Sport Plan budgets, aimed at developing further links between schools and clubs, and increasing the number of young people involved in volunteering and leadership in sport.

Badminton and volleyball are also among the four sports which will benefit from 'Premier League 4 Sport', a new scheme launched this month, which will drive participation among young people in partnership with the 20 Premier League football clubs.

The challenge for all these sports is to make themselves attractive to young people, so that young people choose to take them up.

UK Sport: Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when UK Sport's annual athlete survey will be carried out; and when it will report; [249157]

(2) when UK Sport's annual athlete survey will be carried out; when it will report; and for what reason it has been delayed. [249795]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport have advised that they will next carry out an athlete survey in the autumn of 2009 and would expect to report the headline findings by the end of the year. Although they had previously planned to conduct a survey early this year for March publication, UK Sport are now seeking to strategically align their athlete survey with the end of year reviews of sport that are conducted as part of Mission 2012—after the summer competition season. In addition UK Sport are now seeking to supplement findings with focus groups and other data gathering across the year.

The decision not to carry out a survey in 2008 was taken by UK Sport as a result of the uncertainty about the number and range of athletes that would be available to survey at that time. UK Sport will of course be able to benefit from the post-Games athlete survey carried out by the British Athlete Commission and they are confident that the other activity planned will inform Mission 2012 up to and until the next survey in 2009.

United Utilities: Sports

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will discuss with United Utilities the effect on *(a)* Darwen Cricket Club and *(b)* other sports clubs of recent increases in water charges; [249164]

(2) what representations he has received on the increases in water charges being imposed by United Utilities on *(a)* sports and *(b)* other clubs in the north-west; and if he will make a statement. [249203]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am aware of this issue and will—along with my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, who is responsible for the natural and marine environment be seeking a meeting with Ofwat to establish what options are available to ensure community sports clubs are not disproportionately affected by these charges.

I have also asked Sport England to see whether there is any systematic help they can provide to ensure community sports clubs' water charges have been calculated correctly.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving her Office's buildings since its inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248049]

Tessa Jowell: My office in 26 Whitehall was redecorated as part of the redecoration programme covering the whole of the building (26 Whitehall). Further additional costs specifically relating to the relocation into the building by the Office of the Minster for the Olympics were incurred to a value of £8,485 plus VAT.

Since then, my office has moved to co-locate with officials from the Government Olympic Executive in 2-4 Cockspur Street to enable more integrated and efficient work. Here a new office was constructed and furnished between July and September 2008, at a cost of £40,625 plus VAT. These costs cover both my own ministerial office and that occupied by my private office and special advisers.

No money has been spent on wallpaper in any of my offices since the inception of the Minister for the Olympics role.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what use has been made of the advice of the London Fire Brigade in the designing out of fire and other catastrophic risks in the construction and operation of Olympic venues. [248587]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* There are several levels of engagement with the London Fire Brigade (LFB), much of it facilitated by the secondment of a member of the LFB to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)—a secondment that has been in place for over a year and ensures excellent co-operation and communication between the organisations.

The LFB is party to the development of designs for both venues and the Olympic Park—through a technical officers team, of which they are part, which is associated with the Safety Advisory Group established by the host boroughs (led in this case by London borough of Newham). This team reviews, comments on and assists in the development of designs which are aimed at reducing fire and other related risks for the venues for London 2012.

Finally, there is a Blue Light Liaison Group which ensures that emerging plans for operational responses to emergencies, both during construction and subsequently, are co-ordinated between the Metropolitan Police, London Ambulance Service, London Fire Brigade and other relevant parties including the ODA.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority on contracts for landscaping relating to the site of the London 2012 Olympics. [248995]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Landscaping contracts are the responsibility of the Olympic Delivery Authority and are awarded following a competitive tendering process. The Authority is a public body whose procurements are subject to the public contracts regulations.

The landscaping management contract for the north of the Olympic Park has been awarded to BAM Nuttall Ltd., a UK-based company with offices in Surrey. The landscaping contract for the south of the Olympic Park is due to be awarded in 2009.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date the construction of the temporary roads and bridges required for traffic access to the Olympic Park was completed. [249431]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Construction of the temporary roads, hard standings and bridges giving access and lay out space at the Olympic Park construction site was completed up to August 2008 until the installation of the fifth (and final) temporary bridge. The completion of this work, including the establishing of the two main entrance plazas—one in the North and one in the South—fulfilled one of the 10 published key milestones set by the ODA (in Demolish, Dig, Design) to be delivered by the Beijing 2008 games.

The positioning of temporary roads and hard standings onsite, however, will continue to change in response to the needs of each of the individual venue and infrastructure construction areas within the Olympic Park construction site. This will ensure the safe, secure and efficient movement of people and materials to, through and around the Olympic Park site throughout the construction period as work develops.

Olympic Games 2012: Disadvantaged

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether there are targets to encourage people living in the most disadvantaged areas to volunteer to work on preparation for and during the London 2012 Olympics. [248368]

Tessa Jowell: The Personal Best Programme, formerly known as the Pre-Volunteer Programme, uses the excitement of the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games to inspire the most disadvantaged people to acquire and develop their skills for work through volunteering.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has identified that up to 70,000 Games-time volunteers will be required. It has committed to recruiting up to 10 per cent. of these through Personal Best.

It is hoped that 20,000 disadvantaged people from London will be involved in Personal Best. So far, this programme has been trialled in 11 boroughs with 875 Londoners taking part. This includes the five host boroughs which are areas of significant disadvantage. Over the next six months the programme will be rolled out to every London borough. Building on the success in London this is now being offered to regions, the South East and North East being the first.

Although not all graduates of the scheme will become Games-time volunteers, they will build self esteem through community volunteering, work experience and gain transferable job skills through a nationally recognised qualification.

LOCOG has recently launched its Trailblazer volunteer scheme giving volunteers the opportunity to work within LOCOG itself. The scheme began with a three month pilot with 23 volunteers on 19 January 2009 and has been promoted in the host boroughs. If successful, LOCOG intends to involve 60-70 volunteers over the year, increasing the number of participants in the run up to 2012.

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she expects the costed security plan for the London 2012 Olympics to be published. [247591]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Due to security considerations, the costed security plan for the London 2012 Olympics is necessarily a classified document. As such, the Home Office is considering proposals for publishing an unclassified version later in 2009.

Olympic Games 2012: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what mechanisms are in place to encourage existing volunteer organisations to take part in work in preparation for and during the London 2012 Olympics. [248371]

Tessa Jowell: The Government, through the Office of the Third Sector and the Government Olympic Executive, and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic

Games and Paralympic Games have been encouraging volunteering organisations to take part in work in preparation for, during and after London 2012 since the early stages of the bid to win the games, through hosting a number of events at both ministerial and official level.

The Government's ambition to maximise the opportunities for a volunteering legacy from the games is reflected in our legacy promise to get thousands more young people giving time to their communities as a result of 2012. This has recently translated into my launch of the "2012 Challenge" in December 2008, a public commitment by Government and key third sector organisations to work together to ensure this ambition is realised.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what measures have been undertaken to address the moth infestation in T block; and when the operation is expected to be completed. [247327]

Nick Harvey: Significant numbers of the Common House Moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) were first reported in the House in early 2008 and preventative treatment has been undertaken since then. In order to minimise the use of pesticides and the consequent risk of exposure to potential toxicants, a process involving moth pheromone has been employed.

Monitoring of moth activity shows that moth numbers within the House of Commons estate are generally reducing. However, activity in T block remains an issue and alternative methods of eradication are being considered. Measures are likely to involve spraying within offices and heat treatment of items contained in them in order to kill larvae. Members with offices in areas affected will be consulted in due course.

Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much has been spent by the House of Commons Commission on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248726]

Nick Harvey: The amounts spent on staff reward and recognition schemes have been:

£

	Actual		Forecast
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Non-consolidated performance pay	572,254	548,217	642,242
Staff recognition schemes	2,739	3,985	5,173
Total	574,993	552,202	647,415

In addition, there are long service and other staff awards, which include non-cash rewards. The amounts involved are not collated centrally, but are modest in nature.

WALES

Broadcasting

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government on (i) the future of public sector broadcasting and (ii) the implementation of digital switchover in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [246810]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and I regularly meet ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss issues affecting Wales, including broadcasting and digital switchover.

As Minister with responsibility for digital inclusion, I am keenly aware of the various issues that surround these subjects and have also met with representatives of various stakeholders—such as the Office of Communication (Ofcom), the BBC, ITV and S4C—to hear their views.

In addition, my officials are actively involved in a number of cross-Government groups, which include representation from the Welsh Assembly Government, that discuss and monitor the ongoing Switchover process. The Wales Office was also involved in discussions that surrounded the recent review of public service broadcasting being undertaken by Ofcom. Through this work, we will continue to ensure that Wales has a strong voice in these important issues.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248050]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Care and maintenance of the Wales Office's two offices (one in London and one in Cardiff) were, until 2005-06, managed by the Welsh Assembly Government. Specific costs for the Wales Office were not systematically identified.

Since 2005, the premises have been managed within the Ministry of Justice (previously the Department for Constitutional Affairs). The following tables give the available information by year for maintenance, decoration, and other improvements.

Maintenance (including electrical and mechanical engineering and plumbing works)

	£
2004-05	97,388
2005-06	42,972
2006-07	59,707
2007-08	35,843

Decoration (the 2006-07 figure includes carpet tile replacement on health and safety grounds, and renewed sanitation)

	£
2003-04	5,121
2005-06	—
2006-07	65,364
2007-08	—

Improvement works (the 2005-06 figure includes £79,809 to replace a lift to meet health and safety and disabled access standards. The 2007-08 figure includes the cost of specialist exterior stonework cleaning of the listed London building, which was recommended on heritage preservation grounds).

	£
2005-06	85,238
2006-07	13,819
2007-08	77,042

We have no wallpaper. There are no plans for further spending on departmental decoration at this time.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers in each of those years. [248793]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department provides for staff. [249085]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since its inception. [248258]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since the inception of the Wales Office in 1999, there have been four losses of mobile telephones. After ascertaining the facts, the Department had no reason to take action against the individuals concerned. There have been no losses of laptop computers, memory sticks, or desktop computers.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248071]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not provided coaching in any foreign language to either Ministers or staff in the last 12 months. However, my Department has paid £335 for two civil servants to learn the Welsh language.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246965]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not commissioned any expert advisers since it's inception.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248421]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer to him on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 584-85W.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248032]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has not conducted any public surveys in the last three years.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249127]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many former prisoners are employed by his Department; and what his Department's policy is on employing former prisoners. [246335]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The majority of staff working in the Wales office are seconded from other Government departments. Therefore, the individual's home department under The Civil Service Management Code carries out the necessary security checks. Sections 1.1.5 and 1.1.6 deal specifically with checks before appointment.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Leader of the House how many members of staff in her Office have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to her Office in each year since 1997. [248254]

Chris Bryant: There have been no further losses following the answer I gave on 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1262W, namely that since June 2007, one laptop has been reported stolen from the Leader of the House of Commons Office. The laptop was used to update the office website and did not contain any personal data or other sensitive information. No data have been lost. No members of staff in the Leader's Office have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for losing memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers and mobile phones.

Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how much has been spent by her Office on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248723]

Chris Bryant: The amount spent by the Leader's Office on staff reward and recognition schemes for the year 2007-08 was £192.

Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

Parliamentary Privilege

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Leader of the House what steps she plans to take to ensure the protection of parliamentary privilege; and if she will make a statement. [247967]

Chris Bryant: The precise nature of parliamentary privilege has been regularly and hotly debated over the centuries and is a key factor of our parliamentary democracy. The prime responsibility for parliamentary privilege in the House of Commons lies with the Speaker and the Committee on Standards and Privileges.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what effect the decision to delay the in-service date of the new aircraft carriers by up to two years will have on the procurement of aircraft to operate from the carriers. [248364]

Mr. Quentin Davies: None.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have been declared unfit for front line duty in each service in the last 12 months. [245113]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD collates, on a quarterly basis, management information on "fit for task", which provides a measure of the medical fitness of all trained armed forces personnel. These figures are broken down into three categories: Medically Fully Fit, Medically Not Fully Fit and Medically Unfit. It should be noted that the majority of those personnel who fall under the category of Medically Not Fully Fit remain fit enough to work in some capacity and therefore continue to make a contribution to operational effectiveness, often within theatres of operation.

Information from the last four quarterly returns of those personnel within the Naval Service and RAF are shown as follows. Personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages rounded to one decimal point:

		Naval Service		*RAF*	
		Number	*Percentage of total trained strength*	*Number*	*Percentage of total trained strength*
2007-08					
Q3	Fully Fit for Task	31,350	89.6	36,880	89.0
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,530	10.1	4,330	10.5
	Unfit for Task	100	0.3	200	0.5
Q4	Fully Fit for Task	31,130	88.9	36,010	88.9
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,790	10.8	4,290	10.6
	Unfit for Task	90	0.3	210	0.5
2008-09					
Q1	Fully Fit for Task	30,610	88.1	35,540	88.7
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,970	11.4	4,340	10.8
	Unfit for Task	100	0.3	160	0.4
Q2	Fully Fit for Task	30,330	88.0	35,010	88.5
	Not Fully Fit for Task	4,060	11.8	4,390	11.1
	Unfit for Task	80	0.2	180	0.4

The Army currently collates quarterly figures only for its deployable elements, rather than for its total trained strength. This provides snapshot figures of Personnel Unable to Deploy (PUD), though many of these will be able to undertake non-deployed duties. The following table provides the figures for 2008 of the number of personnel recorded as unable to deploy for medical reasons. Personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages rounded to one decimal point:

	1 March 2008	*1 June 2008*	*1 September 2008*	*1 December 2008*
Personnel in Deployable Units	70,230	69,700	72,780	73,240
Medical PUD	3,810	3,610	3,780	3,900
Percentage of Deployable Element	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3

The MOD is in the process of introducing a new and more accurate data-capture system, which will enable it to report validated, comparable data on a tri-service basis.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel were stationed in Northern Ireland on 1 January 2009. [248114]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: On 1 January 2009, there were some 4,510 armed forces personnel stationed in Northern Ireland.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he made of the utility of Dragon Runner to his Department's operation; whether his Department has allocated funds to purchase Dragon Runners; and if he will make a statement. [247849]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We have recently assessed that the Dragon Runner Micro-Remote Control Vehicle (RCV) is the most suitable solution available to meet particular requirements for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. The Department has allocated no funds to the purchase of Dragon Runner Micro-RCVs as these costs are attributable to current operations. Such additional costs of current operations are funded from the Reserve.

Defence Medical Services: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow was of personnel in the Defence Medical Services in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) service and (ii) type; [245110]

(2) what the *(a)* inflow and *(b)* outflow was of personnel in the Defence Medical Services in each month in 2008, broken down by (i) service and (ii) type. [245111]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I am placing the available data of the type requested covering the period up to September 2008 for the Royal Navy and RAF in the Library of the House. The data for the Army is only available within proportionate costs, in the summary form shown up to 2006.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that a certain proportion of all expenditure on defence procurement is spent on products produced by UK-based companies. [248676]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In considering procurement decisions, the Ministry of Defence needs to ensure that it secures the best equipment available for our armed forces whilst at the same time ensuring value for money for the taxpayer. Open and fair competition is the most effective method of making sure that we achieve this. Therefore, the MOD does not mandate that a certain proportion of all expenditure on defence procurement is spent on products produced by UK-based companies. Furthermore, any such action would be against EU law, which forbids the provision of preferential treatment to any company, except in respect of essential security interests which is covered by Article 296 of the European treaty.

Departmental Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many houses owned by his Department are rated as grade *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four. [248855]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Worldwide, Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties are at the following Grade for Charge (GfC)—an assessment of the chargeable condition of accommodation, along with other factors such as its size, location and closeness to amenities.

GfC	*Number of properties*
G1fC	11,305
G2fC	27,043
G3fC	21,136
G4fC	9,393

SFA properties are either owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (the majority in England and Wales), the MOD (in Scotland and Northern Ireland) or provided by the host nation as is the case overseas.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i)

0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247339]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The use of 0844, 0845, revenue-sharing telephone numbers and those with an 03 prefix is determined at local level in accordance with individual business requirements and obtained directly from the supplier. Records of such numbers are not held centrally and information relating to them, including any revenue accrued, could be provided at disproportionate cost.

Estonia: Defence Sales

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Estonian government paid for the three British Sandown-class minehunters; and what Treasury guidelines were followed in this case. [248809]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The sale price for the three Sandown class ships to Estonia was £32 million (the gross return to MOD). The net return to MOD, however, will be adjusted by costs for regeneration of the vessels and training of crew prior to delivery. Regeneration is being carried out under incentivised arrangements and thus the final costs will not be known until completion of the work. In accordance with HM Treasury delegations, a business case was prepared and scrutinised by the appropriate authorities.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on the three Sandown-class minehunters in the year prior to their sale to Estonia; and whether their sale was conditional on this work being carried out on them. [248810]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No work was undertaken, other than normal decommissioning activities, on these three vessels, in the year prior to the signature of the sales agreement in September 2006. Therefore no additional costs were incurred.

Ex-servicemen: Homelessness

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many former servicemen and women are homeless in *(a)* London and *(b)* North Yorkshire. [247726]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 484W. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not collect this information. Independent research was commissioned from the University of York by MOD and its colleagues in the Ex-Service Action Group on Homelessness (ESAG), the research found that the percentage of veterans among London's homeless population was 6 per cent. in 2007 compared with 22 per cent. in separate research in 1997. We are exploring opportunities for further research to find out the extent of veterans homelessness in the rest of the country.

Ex-servicemen: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what facilities are provided to former servicemen and women with post-combat stress disorder living in *(a)* London and *(b)* North Yorkshire. [247727]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The health care of all veterans has been the responsibility of the NHS since 1953. Former service personnel with mental health problems, including post traumatic stress disorder will benefit from the Government's decision to extend priority treatment to all veterans whose condition is considered by their GP to be due to service. Veterans are also designated as a Special Interest Group (SIG) in the Department of Health's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Programme. This will train 3,600 new therapists by 2010-11 in England. Additionally, five NHS trusts across the UK are piloting a new model of mental health care for veterans, one of which is located in Camden and Islington, and another one is based at the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. These will provide a holistic service with social support networks complementing health care. Since 1996, the NHS Trauma Service in Hull has worked with veterans to develop and raise awareness of a suitable care pathway.

The MOD also provides a Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas's hospital for those that have concerns about their health due to service, since 1982.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans have been treated for post-combat stress disorder in each of the last three years in *(a)* London and *(b)* North Yorkshire. [247728]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans have been treated for post-combat stress disorder in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [249058]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The health care of veterans is a matter for the national health service and the four UK health Departments. Information is not held by the MOD on how many veterans have been treated for post-combat stress disorder in each of the last three years in London and North Yorkshire.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft in the Hercules C-130 fleet are currently unfit for operational use; and if he will make a statement. [248052]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The numbers of Hercules C-130J and C-130K that are not fit for purpose (FFP) are provided in the following table. The figures shown reflect the position on 13 January 2009.

Aircraft type	*Total fleet*	*Numbers of Hercules not FFP*
C-130J	24	7
C-130K	19	[1]11

[1]This figure includes 4 retired aircraft which are awaiting disposal.

Aircraft are classed as not FFP if they are undergoing scheduled maintenance, modification programmes and any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day to day basis or awaiting disposal. The figures do not reflect the fact that an aircraft assessed as not FFP may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

Met Office

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* coverage and *(b)* accuracy of radar monitoring of rainfall for catchment areas of (i) rivers in England and (ii) the River Severn by the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [248201]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Weather radar coverage over England was reviewed in 2001. As a result new weather radars have been installed in Kent and County Durham. The density and coverage quality of the network in England is considered to be among the best in the world.

The catchment of the River Severn mainly falls under the coverage of the weather radar on Clee Hill, Shropshire. The coverage quality is assessed as being in category one (the highest of three categories used to classify network coverage) for that part of the catchment lying between Newtown and Gloucester, and category two above and below these points.

The Met Office routinely assesses the accuracy of rainfall estimates derived from radar. The assessment is made by comparing rainfall accumulations recorded by rain gauges with accumulations derived from the collocated radar data.

The Met Office does not routinely derive statistics which are catchment specific.

Millen Report

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in addressing the issues identified in the Millen Report. [243964]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All the recommendations from the Service Pension Taxation Inquiry (Millen Report) have been implemented. Identified Armed Forces Pension Scheme underpayments and overpayments have been rectified. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has paid back tax to those affected by the incorrect taxing of invaliding pensions and compensation payments have also been made.

To prevent further issues, business process and legislation recommendations have also been implemented or subsumed by wider changes. These changes include the creation of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, and the introduction of Armed Forces Pensions Scheme 2005 (AFPS 2005), the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the Compensation and Pensions System (CAPS).

Russia: Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Russian military aircraft approached British airspace in *(a)* each month in 2008 and *(b)* each year since 2006. [249732]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table details how frequently Quick Reaction Alert aircraft have been launched to identify Russian military aircraft approaching the NATO Air Policing Area for which the United Kingdom has responsibility, in each month of 2008.

2008

	Number
January	2
February	0
March	1
April	1
May	1
June	0
July	1
August	1
September	1
October	1
November	0
December	1

The following table details how frequently Quick Reaction Alert aircraft were launched to identify Russian military aircraft:

	Number
2006	1
2007	19
2008	10

All Russian military Aircraft have remained in International airspace and have not entered UK airspace.

White Phosphorus

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the size of the stockpile of white phosphorus shells held by the armed forces is; and what criteria control the use of such shells. [249206]

Mr. Quentin Davies: UK armed forces possess white phosphorus munitions for the purpose of producing a smoke screen to provide cover and thus protection for our soldiers on the battlefield. These are conventional munitions that are not outlawed or banned by any convention or protocol. I am withholding information on the size of the stockpile of these munitions on the grounds that its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces. UK training in the use of white phosphorus emphasises that it should be used solely for its intended purpose and not as an anti-personnel weapon.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

10. **Mr. Randall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* penalties and *(b)* enforcement procedures for non-payment of council tax. [248948]

John Healey: No specific assessment has been made of council tax penalties and enforcement, but collection rates have improved every year for the last eight years, underlying the efforts of all councils and the effectiveness of the system.

Gypsies and Travellers

11. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revise the guidance to local authorities in respect of the application of race relations legislation to planning applications involving Gypsy and Traveller sites to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the police and local authorities in managing such sites. [248949]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no plans to revise the guidance contained in ODPM Circular 1/06 as suggested by the hon. Member. Local authorities have a general duty under the Race Relations Act 1976, as amended, to actively seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote good race relations in all they do. We will be publishing good practice guidance on the management of Gypsy and Traveller sites shortly.

20. **Mrs. Laing:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has for the future of Gypsy and Traveller site provision. [248958]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning policy for the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites is set out in ODPM Circular 01/2006: "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". Local authorities have a duty to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and identify enough land to meet the number of pitches set out in the regional spatial strategy. The Homes and Communities Agency will continue to provide funding for the provision of new public sites.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department next plans to review its planning guidance and circulars relating to Travellers. [248951]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement concluded the Government's planning policies for Gypsy and Traveller sites in England are sound. The Government have committed to keeping Parliament informed on the work undertaken to address the issues they highlighted. We will publish a progress report later this year.

Community Cohesion

12. **Mr. Benyon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to achieve community cohesion; and if she will make a statement. [248950]

Mr. Khan: In 2007 we announced a renewed commitment to community cohesion with a £50 million investment over three years and a new public service agreement to build cohesive, active and empowered communities. We continue to support local authorities in delivering improvements in cohesion by providing a framework of guidance and targeted local support. We are also working with faith communities to build interfaith work and support social action.

Financial Assistance: Local Authorities

14. **Linda Gilroy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department plans to take to assist local authorities in the current economic climate. [248952]

Hazel Blears: People need their council to offer real help through improved services and low tax. We have given them billions of pounds of extra funding, and financial freedoms, to help them do so, including putting in place the first-ever three-year settlement last year which gave councils an extra £8.9 billion.

Council Housing Waiting Lists

15. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of trends in the number of families on council house waiting lists since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [248953]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our latest figures show 1.67 million households registered on local authority waiting lists in England in April 2007 compared to 1.02 million in April 1997.

Business Start-ups

16. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage provision of low-cost retailing space in town centres for small, local and start-up businesses through the rating and planning systems. [248954]

Mr. Iain Wright: Our forthcoming refinements to town centre policy will make clear that councils should plan proactively to secure a mix of units in new developments to provide for small businesses including starter premises.

In addition, small business rate relief, introduced in 2005, offers up to 50 per cent. reductions in rates bills for businesses occupying only one property.

Statutory Services: Over-60s

17. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statutory services for which her Department is responsible borough councils will be required to provide to those aged over 60 in 2009; and if she will make a statement. [248955]

Mr. Khan: The Government, through their Supporting People programme, fund a variety of non-statutory services for older people, through local authorities. The SP programme, created in 2003, is administered through top tier local authorities, many of which are borough councils. Over 800,000 older people are supported to live independently through this programme, and services provided include home improvement agency and handyperson services, and wardens. However, it is for local authorities to determine how to best meet the support needs identified in their communities and the Department for Communities and Local Government does not prescribe any particular model of support or services.

In addition, the Disabled Facilities Grant is a mandatory grant used to provide adaptations to the homes of disabled people and older people to live independently in their homes. Adaptations include improving access to a home, and to the basic facilities within a home, for example by providing ramps, door widening, stair lifts and level access showers. Each year, around 35,000 people benefit from a Disabled Facilities Grant. This Government have substantially increased the Government funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant programme from £57 million in 1997 to £156 million in 2009-10. Local authorities also contribute towards the cost of adaptations from their own resources.

Council Housing Rents

18. **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of allowing local authorities to retain all monies raised from council house rent receipts. [248956]

Mr. Iain Wright: The retention of council house rent receipts is being considered as part of the Review of Council Housing Finance and Rents Policy which is being undertaken by my Department and Her Majesty's Treasury. The review is currently in its final stages and will report to the Chief Secretary and Communities and Local Government Ministers this spring. It will inform the spending review and will be followed by a period of formal consultation.

South-west Spatial Strategy

19. **Annette Brooke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made towards agreement of the draft south-west regional spatial strategy. [248957]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State received around 35,000 responses from individuals and organisations to the consultation on her proposed changes to the south-west regional spatial strategy. This is the largest number ever received to such a consultation. My officials at the Government office for the south west are currently assessing the responses and the Secretary of State will consider proposals for a revised timetable shortly.

Energy Efficiency

21. **Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. [248959]

Margaret Beckett: This Department has various policies and programmes for example the Decent Homes Programme, Building Regulations and Energy Performance Certificates that already address energy efficiency in existing homes. The Government will shortly be consulting on a Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, to provide a route map to greener, warmer homes, which will save energy and help householders reduce their fuel bills.

Infrastructure: West Sussex

22. **Mr. Soames:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government plans to grant to local authorities in West Sussex for infrastructure spending in the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [248960]

John Healey: Local authorities in West Sussex are set to receive at least £36.4 million in 2009-10 and £47.6 million in 2010-11 in grants from central Government which can be spent on local infrastructure. Figures for 2011-12 will be dependent on the outcome of the next spending review. In addition, local authorities in West Sussex will receive at least £6.3 million in PFI credits in each of these three years.

Local Area Agreements

23. **Lyn Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the credit crunch on the ability of local authorities to meet their local area agreement targets. [248961]

John Healey: We are working closely with local authorities as part of the current LAA annual review to address delivery issues and ensure that priorities and targets remain the right ones for each local area in the light of the economic downturn. This will lead to refreshed LAAs in the spring.

New Housing Estimates

24. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of houses to be built in *(a)* the growth areas and *(b)* Northamptonshire in 2009-10. [248962]

Margaret Beckett: Planned housing numbers are set out in the published regional spatial strategies, local development frameworks and the associated annual monitoring reports.

Temporary Accommodation

25. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are in temporary accommodation. [248963]

Mr. Iain Wright: As at 30 September 2008 there were 72,130 households in temporary accommodation. This is 13 per cent. lower than at the same time last year. The number of households in temporary accommodation has now fallen for 12 consecutive quarters and is 29 per cent. lower than the peak of 2004.

Building Regulations: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the building regulations as they apply to resilience of properties to flooding; and if she will make a statement. [248996]

Mr. Iain Wright: Officials in my Department have ongoing discussions with a large number of bodies including representatives from local authorities, product manufacturers and the development and insurance industries on this and other issues relating to the building regulations.

Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods recommended that

> "Building Regulations should be revised to ensure that all new or refurbished buildings in high flood-risk areas are flood resistant or resilient".

The Government's response, published in December last year, indicated the Government's support for this recommendation.

Parts A and C of the building regulations, and the associated guidance, address the requirements on structure and on resistance to contaminants and water (but not currently flooding) that have to be satisfied by most new and refurbished buildings. The Government are currently considering these requirements and how best 'flood performance' could be included within amended building regulations. We plan to consult on this in the summer.

Domestic Visits: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what capacity she visited Wellingborough constituency on 5 December 2008; whether the costs of her travel were met by the public purse; and whether she travelled by ministerial car. [249681]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited Wellingborough in a non-ministerial capacity. The cost of travel was not met by the public purse and a ministerial car was not used.

Greenbelt: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hectares of greenbelt land there were in North Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [247614]

Mr. Iain Wright: The area of Green Belt land in North Yorkshire for each year for which data is available is presented in the following table.

North Yorkshire

	Hectares
1997	56,040
2003	56,730
2004	56,730
2006	58,410
2007	58,450

The first robust estimates of the area of Green Belt land at local authority level were for 1997. In 2003 it was decided to collate Green Belt estimates on an annual basis to monitor the department's Spending Review 2004 Public Service Agreement 6 indicator. However, figures were not published for 2005 due to the extensive quality assurance necessary in that year.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will use her powers under the Housing Act 2004 to suspend home information packs. [248877]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 322W.

Homelessness: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in the Eastbourne borough council area were recorded as *(a)* homeless and *(b)* rough sleepers in the months of (i) December and (ii) January in each year since 1997. [248829]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The hon. Member's question asks for figures for the months of December and January. The total number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty ('acceptances') are collected on a quarterly rather than monthly basis, and numbers in temporary accommodation are a snapshot as at the end of each quarter. Monthly data are therefore not available, but data are provided in the following tables for the last (October to December) and first (January to March) quarters of each year since 1997:

October to December quarter

	Acceptances October to December quarter	*Temporary accommodation as at December 31*
1997	130	322
1998	133	386
1999	73	327
2000	113	404
2001	79	356
2002	46	327
2003	73	331
2004	73	285
2005	55	144
2006	36	169
2007	46	152

January to March quarter

	Acceptances January to March quarter	*Temporary accommodation as at March 31*
1997	109	252
1998	96	346
1999	119	326
2000	108	339

January to March quarter

	Acceptances January to March quarter	*Temporary accommodation as at March 31*
2001	138	392
2002	92	351
2003	76	274
2004	70	246
2005	35	137
2006	38	145
2007	50	136
2008	28	159

Mid-year rough sleeping estimates have been published annually since 1998, and give a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough on a single night, based on local authority street counts in those areas where there is a known or suspected rough sleeping problem. Rough sleeping estimates for Eastbourne borough council are shown in the following table.

Number of rough sleepers in Eastbourne borough council (mid-year estimate)

1998	11
1999	3
2000	1
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	3
2005	3
2006	6
2007	6
2008	0

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homeless *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in the Eastbourne Borough Council area were placed in temporary accommodation in each of the last five years. [248830]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level, about households rather than individuals.

Data collected includes the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Information on the number of households housed in temporary accommodation is reported quarterly by local authorities as at the last day of each quarter. The figures include: those households which have been accepted as owed the main homelessness duty; those for which inquiries are pending; those being accommodated for a limited period because they have been found intentionally homeless and in priority need; those being accommodated pending possible referral to another authority, and those being accommodated pending the outcome of a local authority review or county court appeal.

The number of dependent children (or expected children) in these households is also collected, but data on the number of adults is not. Figures for total households, households with dependent children and total children reported by the Eastbourne borough council over the last five years are shown in the following table.

Households, households with children, and children in temporary accommodation, as at end March each year

	Total households in TA arranged by local authority	*Total households in TA arranged with dependent (and expected) children*	*Total children (and expected children) within these households*[1]
2003-04	246	205	—
2004-05	137	54	82
2005-06	145	67	100
2006-07	136	76	127
2007-08	159	96	163

[1] Children in TA was not collect until the 2nd quarter 2004.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expected running cost of the Homes and Communities Agency will be in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the two subsequent years; how many staff the Agency will employ; how many staff will work on cohesion-related issues; and if she will make a statement. [245525]

Mr. Iain Wright: The forecast full year running costs for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in 2008-09, and planned budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11, are £86 million per annum; in addition £4 million is being provided to the HCA in 2009-10 for transitional costs. The HCA has 789 permanent staff ('full-time equivalent') currently in post plus 30 staff on secondment to the HCA from my Department, from an establishment of 972 ('full-time equivalent'). It is not possible, however, to provide an estimate of the number of HCA staff working on cohesion-related issues, as many staff working on housing and regeneration will address cohesion-related issues to some extent in their work as part of the mainstreaming of cohesion into discussions with local partners.

Local Government: Mortgages

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will enable local authorities to advance loans to first-time buyers in the mortgage market. [249475]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities have existing powers under the Housing Act 1985 to advance loans to people for the purpose of acquiring, constructing or improving a house.

Local Government: VAT

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local authorities which have adjusted their relevant charges in order to pass on the temporary reduction in value added tax. [249453]

John Healey: We do not collect this information centrally.

London Pensions Fund Authority: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual administration costs of the London Pensions Fund Authority are. [245991]

John Healey: On the basis of annual statistical returns made by the London Pension Fund Authority, in 2007-08, £14,404,000 was charged to the Authority's fund to cover the cost of scheme administration.

Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether automated valuation model techniques are to be utilised in the proposed business rates revaluation in 2010. [245987]

John Healey: Automated analytical techniques have been used to a limited extent to assist Valuation Office Agency staff with preparatory work for the 2010 non-domestic rating revaluation. All final valuations are produced by Valuation Office staff.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Tribunal Service has a non-domestic rates manual equivalent to that which it has regarding council tax. [246381]

John Healey: The Valuation Tribunal Service does not have its own non-domestic rates manual, instead it subscribes to, and uses as its reference work for national non-domestic rating, the commercial publication "Ryde on Rating and the Council Tax" published by Lexis Nexis, ISBN 978-1-4057-3119-5.

Non-domestic Rates: Business

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she expects the 2010 business rates revaluation to be revenue-neutral. [246546]

John Healey: We expect the 2010 business rate revaluation to be revenue-neutral in real terms. The overall national multiplier is reset to ensure the total yield from business rates is unaffected by the revaluation.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances automated teller machines are liable for empty property business rates. [246388]

John Healey: An automatic teller machine (ATM) located within a property, which forms part of that operator's usual business and is controlled by that business, such as an ATM within a bank, is not separately assessed for rates. However, an ATM can be a separately assessed hereditament for rates where it is located in a property and does not form part of that operator's usual businesses and the operator does not have paramount control over the ATM, such as an ATM at a garage shop.

Any separately assessed hereditament consisting of, or of part of, any building, together with any land ordinarily used or intended for use for the purposes of the building, or part, it may be liable for empty property rates.

Non-domestic Rates: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how many sub-locations there are in each billing authority in Greater London. [246945]

John Healey: The number of sub-location codes in use in each billing authority in Greater London is provided in the following table. Further analysis would not be possible except at disproportionate cost.

Sub-location codes in London as at December 2008

Billing authority	*2005 rating lists*
Barking and Dagenham	466
Barnet	812
Bexley	263
Brent	953
Bromley	330
Camden	980
City of London	2,357
Croydon	474
Ealing	722
Enfield	654
Greenwich	275
Hackney	1,114
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,251
Haringey	638
Harrow	839
Havering	593
Hillingdon	1,200
Hounslow	810
Islington	1,365
Kensington and Chelsea	1,322
Kingston upon Thames	213
Lambeth	349
Lewisham	212
Merton	220
Newham	449
Redbridge	787
Richmond upon Thames	205
Southwark	386
Sutton	343
Tower Hamlets	759
Waltham Forest	817
Wandsworth	329
Westminster	5,869
Total	28,356

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social rented homes she expects to be built in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010; and whether such homes will be built to Code Level Three. [247837]

Mr. Iain Wright: We remain committed to a substantial increase in social housing. Our aspiration is to deliver 45,000 homes a year by 2010-11. This is still some time away and it remains too early, given current market conditions, to predict outputs in that year with certainty.

We are committed to ensuring that all homes are built to the highest levels of sustainability and as such we are increasing the energy efficiency standards set out in Part L of the Building Regulations and introducing the water efficiency into Part G. In addition, one of the requirements for grant funding through the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) Affordable Housing programme is that they should be built to Code level 3 as set out in their Design and Quality Strategy published in April 2007.

The HCA is currently considering how to harmonise the standards and commitments made by English Partnerships and Housing Corporation prior to the establishment of the HCA and will, subject to a cost-benefit analysis, confirm the timetable for building to higher levels of the code in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Waterways

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the terms of reference of the Operational Efficiency Review of British Waterways are. [247804]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The terms of reference for the Operational Efficiency Programme Review of British Waterways is currently under development and will be finalised shortly.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when and by what means stakeholders will be consulted on the Operational Efficiency Programme of British Waterways. [247805]

Huw Irranca-Davies: British Waterways, the principal stakeholder, is a member of the review team and as such will automatically be involved in the development of the Operational Efficiency Programme review. The study is underway and options are still being developed. DEFRA and British Waterways are happy to receive stakeholders' views to feed them into the review.

Dogs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to tackle problems arising from dangerous dogs in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [244051]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are developing guidance for those responsible for the enforcement of the law on dangerous dogs in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers, local authorities and the RSPCA. This follows on from DEFRA's consultation with the police which suggested that the existing law did not need changing but that more guidance was needed.

Environment Protection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to launch the new collaborative centre for the understanding of natural and environmental risks. [248790]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The collaborative Centre of Excellence in Understanding and Managing Natural and Environmental Risk was launched in December.

The centre will provide world-leading evidence and expertise on environmental risks such as flooding, animal and plant disease, and adapting to climate change.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will establish the new collaborative centre for the understanding of natural and environmental risks in the near future; and if he will make a statement. [249748]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The collaborative Centre of Excellence in Understanding and Managing Natural and Environmental Risk was launched in December.

The centre will provide world-leading evidence and expertise on environmental risks such as flooding, animal and plant disease, and adapting to climate change.

Fish

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual amount of fish consumed in the UK. [248994]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has made the following estimate of the annual amount of fish consumed in the UK:

UK household purchased quantities

Fish per week: 165.18 grams per person

UK Eaten out purchased quantities

Fish and fish products per week: 13.19 grams per person

UK population figure 2007

Million: 59.74

Totals:

Combined grams/person/week: 178.37

Grams/person/year: 9275.35

Million grams/pop/year: 554085.1708

Million Kgs/pop/year:554.085

Million tonnes: 0.554

Total annual UK consumption of fish:

0.55 Million tonnes

Totals include takeaway fish meals and fish products, ready meals, tinned and bottled fish.

Fish: Conservation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to enforce the regulations of marine conservation zones in respect of the conservation and management of fish stocks targeted by non-UK flagged vessels beyond the six and 12 mile zones. [249223]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Marine conservation zones (MCZs) will primarily be protected via existing regulatory regimes. A series of duties placed on public authorities will ensure that those authorities take account of the likely impacts on MCZs of their own actions, and of the activities for which they have responsibility for granting consent.

We will also provide a mechanism to allow the Marine Management Organisation (or, in respect of Welsh territorial waters the Welsh Ministers) to control activities that are otherwise unregulated, where they pose a threat to the achievement of a site's objectives.

Where there is evidence to demonstrate that fisheries need to be controlled or restricted in order to further the conservation objectives for a site, the Bill places a duty on inshore fisheries and conservation agencies to take appropriate measures within their areas. Beyond six nautical miles we will pursue the introduction of measures through the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in the EU on the designation of marine conservation zones as envisaged in the Marine Bill. [249224]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been no recent discussions between my Department and the European Commission or my European counterparts on the designation of marine conservation zones (MCZ) as envisaged in the Marine Bill. However, the MCZ mechanism will enable us to work with statutory nature conservation advisors, environmental groups, fishermen and other stakeholders to select sites for the conservation of biodiversity.

Our strategy is to identify the areas that we want to protect, get the protection in place for the activities we control and seek to secure protection from activities such as fishing through international agreements such as the CFP.

Fisheries

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which 10 UK fishing ports had the greatest *(a)* number of home fishing vessels and *(b)* volume of landings in the latest period for which figures are available. [249290]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2007, the top 10 UK ports based on the number of vessels having them as their home port are shown as follows.

Home port	*Number of vessels*
Newlyn	204
Kilkeel	121
Poole	115
Fraserburgh	109
Brixham	105
Plymouth	91
Peterhead	89
Mevagissey	82
Milford Haven	79
Portsmouth	75

In 2007, the top 10 UK ports based on the volume of landings by UK and foreign fishing vessels are shown as follows.

Port of landing	*Thousand tonnes (live weight)*
Peterhead	147.7
Lerwick	114.9
Fraserburgh	28.9
Lochinver	21.0
Scrabster	15.8
Plymouth	13.0
Brixham	11.3
Aberdeen	10.5
Ardglass	10.0
Newlyn	9.5

Fisheries: Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age of the British fishing workforce is. [249050]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Figures on the average age of the fishing workforce are not available although a survey in 2006 produced the following estimates.

Number of regular and part-time fishermen on UK registered vessels in 2005 by age breakdown

Age	*Number*
Less than 20	490
20 to 55	9,125
Over 55	3,216

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of people who are *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed by the UK fishing fleet. [249289]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK fisheries administrations estimate that at the end of 2007 there were 12,700 people directly employed in the fish-catching sector, either on a full or part-time basis.

The UK Sea Fish Industry Authority (SEAFISH) has published an analysis (in January 2008) that estimates that if the whole of the sea fishing sector were removed, a total of around 29,000 full-time equivalent jobs would be lost initially, including the 12,700 catching jobs, dependent upstream and downstream jobs and jobs in the wider economy which depend indirectly on these jobs.

Estimating the number of related jobs onshore whose existence can be attributed at least in part to the UK catching sector alone is complicated by the high levels of imported fish upon which jobs in our processing sector depend. Around 90 per cent. of whitefish processed within the EU is sourced from outside EU waters. SEAFISH estimates that there are around 15,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the UK fish-processing sector.

The full report on economic impacts of the UK sea fishing and fish processing sectors is available via the SEAFISH website.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average weight of discards per year per UK fishing vessel has been over the last 10 years. [248984]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK fisheries laboratories send observers to sea to record the quantity of fish discarded and retained by fishing vessels. This sampling is intended to provide estimates of discards of the main commercial species. It is only possible to sample a small proportion of fishing trips in this way. For this reason the sampling effort tends to be focused on those fisheries which are of relatively large scale, and which usually involve some discarding. There are a large number of fisheries which are small in scale and/or involve little or no discarding, which are not routinely sampled. These include many shellfish fisheries, fisheries for pelagic species such as mackerel and herring, and in particular inshore fisheries involving vessels less than 10 metres in length. Vessels in this latter category form the majority of the UK fishing fleet. As a result, estimates of discards given as weight per vessel may not be representative. Estimates of discards by UK vessels for some important fish stocks are given for 1998 to 2007 (where available), and numbers of fishing vessels registered in the UK over the same period are given in the following tables.

Estimated discards of North sea stocks by vessels registered in Scotland (Sco) and England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWN), 1998 to 2007

Tonnes

	Species							
	Cod		*Haddock*		*Whiting*		*Plaice*	*Sole*
	Vessels							
	Sco	*EWN*	*Sco*	*EWN*	*Sco*	*EWN*	*EWN*	*EWN*
1998	10,287	—	35,134	—	8,861	—	—	—
1999	2,991	—	35,270	—	15,563	—	—	—
2000	4,141	—	39,745	—	16,211	—	—	—
2001	4,440	—	86,297	—	8,869	—	—	—
2002	1,519	—	32,196	—	8,315	—	—	—
2003	1,086	—	18,555	—	5,931	—	—	—
2004	1,266	430	12,834	371	5,765	2,023	547	33
2005	1,169	604	7,412	168	5,547	683	122	1
2006	1,671	581	14,671	310	4,457	1,385	351	37
2007	11,892	221	24,671	322	3,383	541	136	37

Estimated discards of west of Scotland stocks by vessels registered in Scotland, 1998 to 2007

Tonnes

	Species		
	Cod	*Haddock*	*Whiting*
1998	289	4,801	4,232
1999	62	4,060	2,015
2000	410	6,875	4,831
2001	139	6,087	1,561
2002	110	7,151	1,257
2003	27	3,649	1,283
2004	56	4,072	2,445
2005	45	2,677	828
2006	322	4,453	647
2007	1,107	3,405	312

Number of fishing vessels registered in the UK, 1997 to 2007

	Under 10 metres	*10 metres+*	*Total*
1997	2,436	6,022	8,458
1998	2,244	6,027	8,271
1999	2,123	5,916	8,039
2000	2,049	5,769	7,818
2001	2,006	5,715	7,721
2002	1,805	5,773	7,578
2003	1,684	5,412	7,096
2004	5,394	1,628	7,022
2005	5,134	1,582	6,716
2006	5,203	1,549	6,752
2007	5,236	1,527	6,763

Fishing Catches: North Sea

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the weight of discards of fish caught in the North Sea was in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* nationality of fishing vessel and *(b)* fish type. [249170]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We do not have access to estimates of discards by nation for nations other than the UK. However estimates of total international discards, which include estimates of discards for all fleets fishing in the North sea, are available. These can be compared with the estimates of discards by UK fleets to determine the contribution of UK and other fleets to the total quantities discarded.

Estimated discards (tonnes) of North sea cod, haddock and whiting: (Estimates are given for vessels registered in Scotland (Sco), England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWN) and for all international fleets combined (Total Int)).

	Cod			Haddock			Whiting		
	Sco	EWN	Total Int.	Sco	EWN	Total Int.	Sco	EWN	Total Int.
1998	10,287	—	40,500	35,134	—	45,160	8,861	—	13,000
1999	2,991	—	14,200	35,270	—	42,598	15,563	—	24,000
2000	4,141	—	13,700	39,745	—	48,770	16,211	—	23,000
2001	4,440	—	13,900	86,297	—	118,225	8,869	—	16,000
2002	1,519	—	5,700	32,196	—	45,857	8,315	—	18,000
2003	1,086	—	6,400	18,555	—	23,691	5,931	—	24,000
2004	1,266	430	5,800	12,834	371	15,551	5,765	2,023	14,000
2005	1,169	604	6,300	7,412	168	8,637	5,547	683	11,000
2006	1,671	581	8,100	14,671	310	17,908	4,457	1,385	10,000
2007	11,892	221	23,600	24,671	322	31,048	3,383	541	6,000

Fishing Gear: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures were proposed at the most recent EU Fisheries Council to reduce mesh size; and which countries *(a)* proposed and *(b)* supported each such proposal. [248987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The only such proposal we were aware of concerned a French request to permit the exploitation of a sustainable gill net fishery in the waters to the west of Ireland, by somewhat relaxing the existing static gear restrictions in the area. This was ultimately agreed by all member states, on the grounds that the fishery was sustainable and it would not have any impact on the deep sea stocks the restrictions were intended to protect.

Fishing Vessels

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average *(a)* length and *(b)* horsepower of a UK fishing vessel is. [249047]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Based on those vessels registered as UK fishing vessels as at 31 December 2007, the average length of a UK registered fishing vessel was 9.7 metres and the average power was 127 kW.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age of the UK *(a)* under 30 foot and *(b)* over 30 foot fishing fleet is. [249049]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Based on those vessels registered as UK fishing vessels as at 31 December 2007, the average age of UK registered fishing vessels under 30 feet in length was 23 years. The average age of vessels over 30 feet in length was also 23 years.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many UK fishing vessels were built in 2008; and what their total tonnage is. [249052]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Of those vessels entering the UK fishing fleet during 2008, sixty three were actually built during 2008, with a gross tonnage of 6,168 tonnes.

Floods and Water Bill

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the draft Floods and Water Bill. [249497]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer my hon. Friend to my previous reply of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39W.

Landfill Tax: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been paid in Landfill Tax by each London authority in each year since its introduction in 2002; and if he will make a statement. [247811]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones: Horses

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what restrictions apply to owners of *(a)* horses and *(b)* foals who have land within nitrate vulnerable zones. [248674]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The new rules established by the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 will only be enforced in relation to agricultural holdings, and enterprises claiming subsidy under the single payment scheme, if they are located in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). This means that if horses (including foals) are kept on these holdings or enterprises, the manure produced by the animals is subject to the NVZ rules. If, however, the horses are kept on holdings/enterprises which are not agricultural (e.g. livery yards), then the owners do not need to comply with the rules.

Rural Development Programme

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*,

columns 1183-6W, on the Rural Development programme, if he will provide the figures requested where England Rural Development programme legacy payments were made after 1 January 2007. [241026]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the value of England Rural Development programme (ERDP) socio-economic scheme legacy projects for which each Regional Development Agency is committed to fund since 1 January 2007. The ERDP closed for applications under those schemes in June 2006. Funding for the legacy projects comes from budgets for RDPE 2007-13.

Regional development agency		*Up to £5000*	*£5001 - £100,000*	*£100,001 - £1 million*	*£1 million plus*
Advantage West Midlands	Axis 1	42,458	1,455,637	3,540,202	0
	Axis 3	25,562	4,650,208	3,270,059	1,052,441
	Leader	0	0	0	0
East of England Development Agency	Axis 1	22,233	578,711	1,608,141	0
	Axis 2	0	0	233,757	0
	Axis 3	867	979,757	877,811	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
East Midlands Development Agency	Axis 1	21,950	619,196	2,461,063	0
	Axis 3	26,602	1,130,369	486,873	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
North West Development Agency	Axis 1	26,231	899,641	1,174,181	0
	Axis 3	19,881	862,124	25,920	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
One North East	Axis 1	9,000	547,000	1,128,000	0
	Axis 3	5,000	1,874,000	1,976,000	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
South East England Development Agency	Axis 1	23,654	1,314,369	2,614,079	0
	Axis 3	0	1,608,485	438,301	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
South West of England Development Agency	Axis 1	21,452	616,777	1,455,953	0
	Axis 3	20,452	977,273	587,086	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire Forward	Axis 1	2,435	352,795	327,871	0
	Axis 3	7,762	611,182	374,218	0
	Leader	0	0	0	0

The following table is a correction to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1183-6W, as it relates to funding commitments under Axis 1, 3 and the Leader Axis of the Rural Development programme for England made by the East of England Development Agency since 1 January 2007.

Regional Development Agency		*Up to £5000*	*£5001 -£100,000*	*£100,001 -£1 million*	*£1 million plus*
East of England Development Agency	Axis 1	22,233 (0%)	674,729 (53%)	2,081,851 (82%)	12,565,196 (93%)
	Axis 2	0	0	233,757 (20%)	0
	Axis 3	867 (0%)	979,757 (1%)	877,811 (0%)	0
	Leader	0	0	730,000 (100%)	20,124,765 (99%)

Sharks: Conservation

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals his Department plans to put forward at the next European Fisheries Council on measures to protect sharks and other endangered or threatened species from the impact of over-fishing. [244198]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK Government expressed support for the conservation principles underpinning the European Commission's original proposals on elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays). At the 2008 European Fisheries Council which was held on 17-19 December, the UK Government achieved a balanced package of technical and conservation measures which discourages further the targeting of vulnerable sharks, skates and rays while also recognising the importance of

avoiding unnecessary discards. The final agreed package also reflects that the UK achieved a balance between the need to conserve elasmobranchs for the long term with the need to safeguard the livelihoods of the UK fishing fleets and their local communities whose viable future depends on the sustainable exploitation of these stocks.

The 2009 Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for sharks were significantly reduced to reflect the vulnerable state of these species. Spurdog was cut by 50 per cent. and porbeagle by 25 per cent. In addition to reduced TACs, appropriate technical measures were also introduced such as setting maximum landing sizes to protect larger females and encouraging the timely release of these animals to aid their future survival and subsequent recovery of the stock.

The final package for skates and rays included a TAC for area VI and VII set at the historic baseline, but without the anticipated 15 per cent. TAC cut applied. Contrary to UK expectations, the 25 per cent. by-catch provision was only retained for vessels over 15 m long in the North sea and not in other areas. Also within this package, common skate, undulate rays and white skate caught in relevant nominated International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) zones[1], and angel shark in all European Community waters, should not be retained on board. The proposal requires that catches of these species shall be promptly released unharmed.

[1] Area IIa and IV: Common Skate; Area VIId: Common Skate, Undulate Ray; Area VI a-b, VII a-c, e-k: Undulate Ray, Common Skate, Norwegian Skate and White Skate

Water Charges

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the average annual water bill in each region in each of the last five years. [248493]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the average water bill for each water company in England and Wales for the last five years.

Average water bills

Water and sewerage companies	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
	Average bills (£) (2008-09 prices)				
Anglian	136	150	157	167	168
Dwr Cymru	142	156	159	161	164
Northumbrian Water (including Essex and Suffolk Water)					
Essex and Suffolk	148	156	160	163	161
Northumbrian	116	123	126	129	128
Severn Trent	133	143	146	148	147
South West	148	165	181	198	204
Southern	105	116	122	125	126
Thames	131	163	168	172	171
United Utilities	152	148	155	160	163
Wessex	147	161	175	189	196
Yorkshire (incl. York)	134	140	145	148	151
Water only companies					
Bournemouth and W Hampshire	126	140	141	142	138
Bristol	126	142	145	147	152
Cambridge	105	117	116	114	114
Dee Valley	123	127	123	121	127
Folkestone and Dover	163	169	176	178	181
Mid Kent	149	163	159	160	159
Portsmouth	88	88	87	88	90
South East	149	174	161	166	161
South Staffs	103	113	116	118	118
Sutton and East Surrey	146	162	164	161	159
Tendring Hundred	184	184	177	167	166
Three Valleys (incl. North Surrey)	137	154	152	152	150

Water Charges: Religious Buildings

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of *(a)* churches, *(b)* voluntary and community groups and *(c)* charities to discuss surface area water charges; and if he will make a statement. [248857]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA is in contact with interested parties. The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and are looking at what can be done.

White Fish

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the biomass weight of North sea stocks of *(a)* cod, *(b)* haddock, *(c)* plaice, *(d)* hake and *(e)* sole. [249045]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Spawning stock biomass (SSB) is often used to give a measure of the size of particular fish stocks. Figures for the SSB of major North sea stocks are available from the most recent scientific advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). These are given in the following table.

Estimated spawning stock biomass at the start of 2009 for some North sea stocks

	Stock SSB (Thousand tonnes)
Cod	70.7
Haddock	212
Plaice	265
Hake	151.4
Sole	28

It should be noted that hake caught in the North sea are considered to form part of a biological stock ("Northern Hake") that covers a much larger area, including the Bay of Biscay, the Western approaches, the Irish Sea and West of Scotland.

TREASURY

Construction: Procurement

Mr. Olner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Office of Government Commerce will publish the review of construction contracts it commissioned in July 2008 from the consultants Arup; and if he will make a statement. [248899]

Angela Eagle: The report has already been shared with the stakeholders involved in the study and also with members of the Public Sector Construction Clients' Forum (PSCCF) who discussed the issue on 11 December 2008. Arrangements have also been made to place the note of the PSCCF meeting, together with the Arup report, on OGC's website.

Credit Unions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to increase public access to credit unions through post offices as part of the new Saving Gateway. [248612]

Ian Pearson: The Saving Gateway Accounts Bill is currently going through Parliament. It proposes a cash saving scheme for working age people on lower incomes. Accounts will be offered by a range of financial institutions such as banks, building societies and credit unions. The Government also announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report that accounts will be available through the Post Office.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248799]

Angela Eagle: A full PFI refurbishment of 1 Horse Guards Road was completed in 2002. Maintenance and decoration related expenditure since that date is included in the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider and is not recorded separately.

The amount spent on such building related services at other departmental buildings over the last five years is approximately £6 million.

Nothing has been spent on wallpaper since 2001.

Plans for future redecoration are included in the normal forward planned maintenance schedules compiled for each building.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department received from Ofcom in remitted fines in each of the last five years; and what use has been made of these funds. [249676]

Angela Eagle: Since assuming its powers on 29 December 2003, Ofcom has received and passed to the Consolidated Fund the following amounts in fines:

	£
2003-04[1]	0.00
2004-05	77,500
2005-06	160,000
2006-07	422,000
2007-08	4,199,000
2008-09[2]	7,682,500

[1] 29 December 2003 to 31 March 2004
[2] To 31 December 2008

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248420]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 18 December 2008, *Official Report* column 932W.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 13 October 2008, Treasury Reference: 1/6189/2008, concerning Mr. Richard Macaskill of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [248583]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Treasury hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to HM Revenue and Customs in Class 3 National Insurance contributions in respect of the financial year 2006-07; and what his latest estimate is of the proportion of those payments

that were above the level needed for the individuals in question to have a full national insurance contribution record for that year. [248555]

Mr. Timms: Information on the amount of Class 3 contributions paid in respect of the 2006-07 is not yet available as contributors normally have six years to pay.

Information on the proportion of Class 3 contributions paid that were above the level needed for a full national insurance record for that year is not available.

Revenue and Customs: Audit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many audits of businesses were undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; and what proportion were of businesses classified as *(a)* low risk and *(b)* not low risk. [248554]

Mr. Timms: The total number of enquiries and interventions undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of direct taxes and VAT was:

	Number
2005-06	365,682
2006-07	322,484
2007-08	298,805

The low risk relationships with businesses dealt with by our Large Business Service were only established during 2007-08 and therefore we are unable to provide a breakdown as requested.

The enquiry figures show a downward trend over the period as a result of better use of risk assessment. This reflects the department's strategy of deploying compliance resources to tackling areas of highest risk while reducing the burden on those who are compliant.

This approach has resulted in increases in additional liabilities secured from our compliance activities, details of which are published in our departmental autumn performance reports.

Revenue and Customs: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) offices in Yorkshire and the Humber are to close as a result of HMRC's reorganisation programme. [247323]

Mr. Timms: 23 offices of the 41 offices reviewed in Yorkshire and the Humber are to close as a result of HMRC's regional review programme to align its estate with future business requirements. However, all enquiry centres offering face to face advice to the public will be maintained either in their present building or in a suitable alternative location nearby.

Tax Credit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average length of call to (i) the claimants' and (ii) hon. Members' tax credit helpline was in each of the last 24 months; [241462]

(2) how long on average it took for calls to *(a)* the claimants' and *(b)* hon. Members' tax credit helpline to be answered in each of the last 24 months; [241463]

(3) how many calls were *(a)* received, *(b)* handled and *(c)* unanswered by (i) the claimants' and (ii) hon. Members' tax credit helpline in each of the last 24 months; [241464]

(4) how long on average it took to answer calls made to the tax credits helplines for *(a)* claimants and *(b)* hon. Members in each of the last 24 months; what the duration of the (i) longest and (ii) shortest call to each was in each month; and what the average call duration was; [246894]

(5) how many calls were *(a)* received on, *(b)* handled by and *(c)* unanswered by the tax credit helplines for (i) claimants and (ii) hon. Members in each of the last 24 months; [246896]

(6) how many calls have been received via the tax credit helpline for hon. Members in each month since it was established. [246897]

Mr. Timms: The information requested about the (a) longest and (b) shortest length of call is not readily available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost. I would also refer the hon. Member to previous answers provided by my right hon. Friend the then Paymaster General—25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 418W, 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W, and 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 152W—where elements of the requested information have been provided. The remaining information is detailed in the following table.

	Tax credits helpline					
	Average call handling time[1] *(m:ss)*	*Average time to talk to adviser*[2] *(m:ss)*	*Calls received*[3]	*Calls handled*[4]	*Abandoned*[5]	*Busy and engaged*[6]
2006						
December	05:12	00:16	[7]—	[8]—	[7]—	[7]—
2007						
January	05:13	00:19	[7]—	[8]—	[7]—	[7]—
February	05:06	00:18	[7]—	[8]—	[7]—	[7]—
March	04:31	00:17	[7]—	[8]—	[7]—	[7]—
April	05:04	00:28	[7]—	[8]—	[7]—	[7]—
May	05:45	01:49	[9]—	[8]—	221	846
June	05:50	02:01	[9]—	[8]—	265	818
July	06:03	03:50	[9]—	[8]—	402	4,063

Tax credits helpline

	Average call handling time[1] *(m:ss)*	*Average time to talk to adviser*[2] *(m:ss)*	*Calls received*[3]	*Calls handled*[4]	*Abandoned*[5]	*Busy and engaged*[6]
August	05:44	01:03	[9]—	[8]—	103	247
September	05:52	01:49	[9]—	[8]—	184	369
October	05:34	00:52	[9]—	[8]—	74	120
November	05:35	00:31	[9]—	[8]—	34	69
December	05:32	00:29	[9]—	[8]—	25	42
2008						
January	06:04	02:12	[9]—	[7]1,621	209	315
February	06:05	01:03	[9]—	1,518	82	120
March	06:05	00:59	[9]—	1,375	71	81
April	06:10	02:34	2,270	1,963	307	1,119
May	06:32	04:31	2,780	2,193	586	2,897
June	06:40	04:12	3,098	2,486	611	2,661
July	06:46	04:36	3,851	3,070	781	7,133
August	06:21	01:18	2,197	2,049	147	334
September	06:22	01:48	2,130	1,932	198	455
October	06:19	00:38	1,628	1,581	47	56
November	06:23	00:18	1,415	1,402	13	19

[1] Average call handling time is the time spent by the customer on the phone together with any additional time taken by the adviser after the call to complete any tasks.
[2] Average time to talk to adviser is the time taken for the call to be answered by an adviser once the caller has selected an option from the call steering menu.
[3] Calls received, where the caller selected an option from the call steering menu and the call was placed into the queue to speak to an adviser.
[4] Handled, where the caller spoke to an adviser.
[5] Abandoned, where the call was disconnected after the caller selected an option from the call steering menu, but before being connected to speak to an adviser.
[6] Engaged and busy, where the caller was played either a busy message or received the engaged tone when they rang.
[7] Details provided previously, 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 418W.
[8] Details provided previously, 31 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 682W.
[9] Details provided previously, 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 152W.

Note:
With the exception of times, figures are shown in thousands.

Average call times on the tax credits helpline fluctuate according to peaks in the business. The peak in demand in July reflects the tax credits renewals statutory deadline date of 31 July. There is an increasing trend, encouraged by HMRC, towards renewing by telephone rather than by post. This has been shown to provide more accurate, up-to-date information, and so reduce overpayments.

Between 1 December 2006 and 31 November 2008, on average, it took between 16 and 24 seconds for calls to be answered. For the number of calls to the hon. Members' tax credit helpline handled by the Tax Credit Office MP hotline, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 199-200W.

Information about the number of calls received and unanswered is provided in the following table.

	Number of calls to Tax Credit Office MP hotline	*Calls handled*	*Calls abandoned or unanswered*
2007			
June	1,335	1,291	44
July	1,081	1,071	10
August	989	976	13
September	1,170	1,146	24
October	1,419	1,404	15
November	1,249	1,233	16
December	898	887	11
2008			
January	950	934	16
February	1,039	1,025	14
March	800	775	25
April	966	947	19
May	1,042	994	48
June	1,173	1,118	55
July	1,101	1,083	18
August	848	826	22
September	1,025	[1]1,009	16
October	1,127	[1]1,114	13
November	911	[1]877	34

[1] Figures for September, October and November 2008 correct those provided in the answer given on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 199-200W.

Information about the (a) longest, (b) shortest and (c) average length of calls to the Members' tax credit hotline is not available.

TRANSPORT

A40: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the quality of the single carriageway section of the A40 in Pembrokeshire; [248624]

(2) what recent representations he has received on the merits of dualling the A40 in Pembrokeshire? [248737]

Paul Clark: The Welsh Assembly Government is responsible for motorways and trunk roads in Wales, including the A40 in Pembrokeshire.

Aviation: Compensation

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1285W, on aviation: compensation, whether he has concluded his review of protection of air passengers; and if he will make a statement. [249512]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government's work on short-term measures to improve passengers' experience in any future airline or tour operator failure is nearing completion. This work has comprised:

a study of the feasibility of using an insolvent airline's aircraft and crew to return passengers home. This has concluded that the temporary prolongation of the life of a failed airline to carry out repatriation is unlikely to the best solution even if operationally convenient, because of the need to settle the airline's outstanding liabilities and indemnify the administrator against potential losses from operating the airline.

exploring better information for consumers to increase awareness of their options for protection against airline or tour operator insolvency when making a booking. I expect this work to come to fruition shortly. Concurrent measures to improve the information provided to ATOL-protected passengers on their travel paperwork aim to enforce increased awareness of their rights.

exploring ways to improve the information flow to passengers abroad in the event of airline or tour operator failure, especially about the availability of special repatriation fares with other airlines.

monitoring the development of the insurance market. Since the failure of the XL Leisure Group, demand has led to increased availability of Scheduled Airline Failure Insurance either as a stand-alone product or as an optional or standard part of a travel insurance policy.

The Government have not yet reached decisions on whether any longer term changes are necessary but are continuing to discuss this with stakeholders.

B4008

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* Gloucestershire county council on the B4008 since the opening of junction 12 on the M5. [248239]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has not spent any money on the B4008 because, as part of the local highway network, it is the responsibility of Gloucestershire county council.

We have been advised by Gloucestershire county council that, since Junction 12 of the M5 became an all-movements junction in 2003, the council have spent £171,000 on surfacing at Standish in 2004-05 and £93,000 on Standish Railway Bridge in 2007-08.

Biofuels

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he will take to reinstate the inclusion of indirect land-use impacts in EU biofuel sustainability criteria. [249624]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Indirect land use impacts will be taken into account by the European Commission for the first time as part of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). The Commission will report on the impact of indirect land use change, and, if appropriate, propose a methodology to take account of the greenhouse gas emissions caused by indirect land use change, by 31 December 2010 for agreement by the European Council and European Parliament by 2012.

The UK will continue to be instrumental in promoting sustainable biofuels. Accordingly we will use our research programme to help ensure that the development of an EU-wide methodology is based on the best available science.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the revenue from the Dartford river crossing was in the last financial year for which figures are available; and what proportion of that figure represented profit. [249613]

Paul Clark: Details of the annual total revenues from the Dartford crossing are placed in the House Library. The latest available figures of £69 million are for 2006-07. Revenues from the crossing must by law be spent on transport.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the suitability of locations required for multi-purpose testing sites for motorcycles; and whether he has made an assessment of whether a minimum and maximum distance is required between these sites. [248578]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Following an extensive public consultation exercise on the implementation of the new motorcycle test, the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) recognised that a network of multi-purpose test centres (MPTCs) would be needed to deliver the new motorcycle test.

The criterion used for establishing this network was that most motorcycle candidates should have to travel no more than 20 miles or 45 minutes to a MPTC. While not every candidate would be able to reach a test centre within this time/distance criterion, DSA had to strike a balance between convenience for candidates and the efficient provision of testing services.

A key factor in deciding on search areas was the need to identify sites which would give the best geographical coverage for most test candidates and where MPTCs would be used efficiently based on demand for tests in those localities. It follows that those areas with a high population density were the main search locations.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost is of introducing the new roadside breath screening devices with data capture functions to police forces in England and Wales. [248992]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost to the Department for Transport of funding the purchase of these devices for every police force in England and Wales is £1.9 million.

Electrification: Barking

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* Transport for London on electrification of the Barking to Gospel Oak section of the North London line. [249091]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working closely with Transport for London as it reviews the business case for electrifying the Barking to Gospel Oak line.

Electrification: East Midlands

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to be able to make an announcement about electrification of the East Midland line north of Bedford to Sheffield. [249771]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to examine the case for further rail electrification. A decision on the electrification of the Midland Main Line will be announced later this year.

Haulage: Carbon Emissions

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent to assist road haulage companies to reduce *(a)* greenhouse gas emissions, *(b)* other emissions and *(c)* fuel costs in the last five years. [247555]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport assists the road haulage industry through two key programmes, the Freight Best Practice (FBP) programme and the Safe And Fuel Efficient Driving (SAFED) programme. These provide advice, tools and training programmes which reduce CO_2 and other emissions as a direct consequence of reduced consumption of fossil fuel. We have invested £7 million in FBP and £7.5 million in SAFED since 2003. The latest assessment of the effectiveness of the programmes in 2006 showed them to have saved around 120,000 tonnes of CO_2 and 52,000 tonnes of CO_2 respectively each year since 2005.

The Department for Transport funding for these programmes applies to England only. The current FBP programme has the facility to be supported by funding from the devolved Administrations while maintaining a single management process. This is proving attractive and cost-effective for them with Scotland and Northern Ireland currently funding specific programme activities for their areas.

Heathrow Airport: Air Routes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the adoption of dual mode use of the runways at London Heathrow Airport would have on the Terminal Control North flight routing redesign proposals made by National Air Traffic Services. [248651]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport's statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 355-60, on Britain's transport infrastructure in which he made clear that the Government did not support the adoption of mixed mode (using existing runways for both arrivals and departures) at Heathrow airport.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people living in the London Borough of Havering who would be subject to additional aircraft noise should dual mode use of the runways at London Heathrow Airport be adopted. [248650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Noise impacts of possible development options at Heathrow were presented in the November 2007 consultation document but not borough by borough. We announced on 15 January our decision not to support mixed mode on the existing runways as an interim measure ahead of a third runway.

Helicopters

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that complaints about helicopter noise are collated in one place and made available to the public. [248885]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It has not been the practice for the Department for Transport to collate complaints about helicopter noise and there are no plans to do so.

The Civil Aviation Authority's Directorate of Airspace Policy (CAA/DAP) has developed a strategy for answering helicopter noise complaints. This includes a well publicised contact point that receives noise complaints from across the UK. Further details are available on the CAA website at:

www.caa.co.uk

CAA/DAP supplied information on complaint statistics to help inform the DEFRA sponsored research by Salford university into improving the management of noise from helicopter operations. 370 complaints had been received in 2007 although a number of helicopter operations are not included (e.g. military helicopters and complaints received by aerodromes, helicopter operators and local authorities.)

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will impose restrictions on the use of helicopters for advertising; and if he will make a statement. [248886]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The use of aircraft, including helicopters, for aerial advertising is already regulated by section 82 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982 and by the Civil Aviation (Aerial Advertising) Regulations 1995.

While in the air, such aircraft must also comply with the Rules of the Air Regulations 2007, and any relevant air traffic control directions.

Level Crossings: Frinton-on-Sea

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received about proposed changes to the level crossing in Frinton-on-Sea from people resident in the area. [248576]

Paul Clark: To date, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received representations from 16 residents of Frinton-on-Sea, regarding the proposed changes to that town's level crossing. Representations have also been received from nine organisations connected with the area.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the Office of the Rail Regulator on changes to the level crossing in Frinton-on-Sea. [249606]

Paul Clark: Officials from the Department for Transport and the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) met on 2 October 2008 to discuss Network Rail's application to make changes to the level crossing in Frinton-on-Sea.

The Department received, on 9 January 2009, all the papers relating to the Frinton Level Crossing Order application from the Office of Rail Regulation, and a decision will be taken soon.

Local Government: Transport

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the regulations and guidance on the quality contracts provisions of the Local Transport Act 2008 will come into force; and how many officials in his Department are exclusively or primarily working on preparation of guidance and regulations under the Act. [248623]

Paul Clark: We intend to consult on the draft regulations and guidance for the quality contracts provisions of the Local Transport Act 2008 in spring 2009, with a view to the provisions coming into force in autumn 2009.

There are many officials contributing to the work on the guidance and regulations associated with the Act, of whom two are working primarily on the quality contracts provisions.

M5

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timescale is for the proposed improvements for junction 12 on the M5; to what extent such improvements are contingent upon the Hunts Grove development; what account has been taken of the effect on the B4008 if the junction's improvements go ahead; and if he will make a statement. [248238]

Paul Clark: A timescale for improvements to Junction 12 of the M5 is in the process of being re-determined as we work towards making a public funding contribution to the proposals in recognition of existing operational problems at the junction which should be addressed. This will enable a scheme with a mixture of public and private money to be progressed.

This arrangement will allow the scheme to move forward without being contingent upon a start of works being made on the Hunts Grove development, which we anticipate during the next financial year.

The improvement scheme would result in some additional traffic on the B4008, and we are assessing the effect as part of the scheme's design which is currently being reviewed.

Motorways: Expenditure

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the capital spending being brought forward by his Department will be spent on increasing motorway and highway capacity; which schemes will receive funds from this pool; and what increase in capacity he expects will be received by March 2010. [247832]

Paul Clark: In November 2008 the Chancellor announced, as part of his pre-Budget report, that £700 million of fiscal stimulus funding was being brought forward by the Department for Transport.

£400 million of this will be used by the Highways Agency in 2009-10 to bring forward high value schemes on the strategic roads network. This includes, subject to completing statutory processes and confirmation of co-funding from the region, bringing forward by two years the start of construction for the scheme to dual the A46 from Newark to Widmerpool. In addition, the funding will allow us to bring forward work to strengthen hardshoulders in advance of the implementation of hard shoulder running as well as other high value structure and asset renewal projects.

The exact schemes that will benefit from the fiscal stimulus is being developed as part of developing the Highways Agency's 2009-10 business plan.

Newquay Airport: Finance

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* UK public funding and *(b)* EU funding has been spent on Newquay International Airport to support the development of new routes from that airport; and if he will make a statement. [249033]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* No UK or EU funding on the development of new routes from Newquay International airport has been spent. Support for new route development has come from within the airport's own resources and not from national or EU funding sources.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by *(a)* Cornwall County Council, *(b)* the South West Regional Development Agency and *(c)* the EU in the development and operation of Newquay International Airport in Cornwall in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [249034]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The South West Regional Development Agency (RDA) has spent £1.3 million and the EU has spent £13.75 million on the development and operation of Newquay International airport in the last five years.

The RDA has also approved an additional £9.3 million, which has yet to be spent.

Expenditure by Cornwall county council on their total spend on Newquay International airport is a matter for them. The Government do not have this information.

Railway Stations: Disabled

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway stations in Wave One of the Access for All strategy are *(a)* fully completed, *(b)* started but not completed and *(c)* not yet started. [249529]

Paul Clark: Of the 50 stations in the first Tranche (2006-09) of Access for All works the following 17 are complete:

Balham, Exeter Central, Haslemere, Hazel Grove, Herne Hill, Kidderminster, Kingston, Orpington, Purley, Sandhills, Sleaford, Taunton, Westbury, Weybridge, Barrhead, Kirkcaldy and Mount Florida.

Additionally, Boston station has been brought forward from the second Tranche and is complete.

Work has started on site but is not complete at the following 12 stations:

Clapham Junction, Fazakerley, Lewisham, Loughborough, Oxted, Shipley, Staplehurst, Streatham Hill, Three Bridges, Twyford, Motherwell and Rutherglen.

The remaining 21 stations in the first Tranche are in design and procurement, have begun preparatory works on site or prefabrication works off site.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* spent on Wave One of the Access for All strategy in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09, broken down by railway station. [249530]

Paul Clark: Assets created by the Access for All Programme are added to the Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) by Network Rail, who have a target to invest approximately £35 million, at 2004 prices, for each full year of the programme through to 2015.

Network Rail's actual spend over the first three years is as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	19.4
2007-08	32.4
2008-09	[1]30.9

[1] As at January 2009 with £36 million forecast total.

Historical information on individual station budgets and actual spend, broken down by year, is held by Network Rail and their contractors and is not stated here due to its commercial sensitivity.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the guidelines for the completion of improvements to station buildings and platforms in Wave One of the Access for All strategy are. [249531]

Paul Clark: Each station selected for the Access for All programme will receive an obstacle free, accessible route into and out of the station, and between each platform. Work is being carried out to the standards specified in "Accessible Train and Station Design for Disabled People: A Code of Practice". This is available to download at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/access/cop

Railways

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of change in passenger numbers for *(a)* Northern Rail, *(b)* Transpennine Express and *(c)* the franchises that provide commuter services in London and the South East has been in each of the last five years. [248628]

Paul Clark: Statistics on rail passenger numbers are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the National Rail Trends Yearbook, which is available in the House Library, or from the ORR website

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

Railways: Adlington

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultation with passengers took place before the change to the timetable was made by Northern Rail to reduce services between Adlington and *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Preston. [248369]

Paul Clark: Northern's proposed timetable for December 2008 was discussed with stakeholders at a meeting in April 2008 which included representatives from Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, Lancashire county council, Rail User Groups from the North West and the independent national rail consumer watchdog, Passenger Focus.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent changes to the timetable for rail services from Adlington to *(a)* Manchester and *(b)* Preston on commuters using the services. [248466]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport meets Northern Rail on a four weekly basis to review delivery of rail services and its ability to meet passenger requirements, particularly noting timetable changes.

Railways: Bus Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on rail replacement bus services between *(a)* Manchester and Leeds, *(b)* York and Leeds, *(c)* Hull and Leeds and *(d)* Sheffield and Leeds in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [248607]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has spent nothing on these services.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on rail replacement bus services in Yorkshire and the Humber in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [248608]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Railways: Expenditure

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent to date on preparation for *(a)* Crossrail and *(b)* the Manchester Hub. [248627]

Paul Clark: As of 31 December 2008 approximately £175 million has been spent on preparation of the Crossrail project.

The Department for Transport has not undertaken expenditure to date on preparatory work for the Manchester Hub, other than officials' time. The Manchester Hub studies are being carried out and funded by Northern Way and Network Rail.

Railways: Overcrowding

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1189W, on railways: overcrowding, when the refurbishment programme will be completed; and whether the 13 per cent. increase in seating capacity will also apply during rush hour periods. [249198]

Paul Clark: The refurbishment programme is contracted to be completed by 31 December 2010.

Seating capacity of all East Midlands Trains 'Class 158' trains will be increased by 13 per cent. as part of the interior refurbishment. Therefore, this increased capacity will be available on all services operated by these trains.

Railways: South East

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have with the Association of Train Operating Companies on the introduction of railcards for train journeys (i) commencing and (ii) ending outside South East England; what his policy is on railcards; and if he will make a statement. [247999]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State requires franchised train companies to accept the 16 to 25, senior and disabled person's railcards. These offer 34 per cent. off most journeys, though the specific terms vary for each card. He has not had discussions with ATOC on the card described, though officials meet with ATOC on various ticketing issues on a regular basis.

Railways: Sustainable Development

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to make fast rail services environmentally sustainable. [247965]

Paul Clark: Rail generally performs well from an environmental perspective compared to other transport modes. It accounts for less than 1 per cent. of total UK carbon emissions.

The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to improve the environmental performance of train services, for example, through facilitating the introduction of on-train energy meters and regenerative braking. We are including stringent environmental targets in new franchises and in the specification of new train designs such as the Intercity Express. All proposals for new rail schemes are appraised against a range of environmental criteria.

Roads: Trans-European Networks

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the quality of those sections of the Trans-European Road network which lie within the UK. [248625]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency (HA), on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, is the highway authority for the strategic road network in England, which includes the vast majority of the Trans European Road Network (TERN) in England.

The Highways Agency is responsible for ensuring that the strategic road network is maintained in a safe and reliable condition. As part of this, it undertakes an annual survey of the network.

The condition of the Trans European Rail Network in Scotland and Wales is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers and the Welsh Assembly Government respectively.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his duties are in respect of the section of the Trans-European Road Network which lies within the UK. [248909]

Paul Clark: The Trans-European Network—Transport (TEN-T) programme finances infrastructure projects and studies for roads and other transport modes on the TEN-T network.

The Department for Transport has policy responsibility for the TEN-T programme, representing and pursuing the UK interests in Brussels.

The Department for Transport is also responsible for co-ordinating and presenting bids for funding from the programme for UK infrastructure projects. These can come from a variety of project sponsors including the devolved Administrations, regional assemblies and the Highways Agency. In 2007, we secured €80.71 million funding for a road package comprising works in England and Northern Ireland.

Roads: Wales

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and *(b)* his Irish counterparts on the quality of trunk road connections in Wales serving UK-Irish ferry ports. [248621]

Paul Clark: No recent discussions have been held with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers or Irish ministers about the quality of trunk road connections in Wales serving UK-Irish ferry ports. Trunk roads in Wales are a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Speed Limits

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has commissioned or evaluated on the introduction of speed suppressors into cars and lorries to enable those vehicles to keep within speed limits; and what his policy is on the use of such equipment. [240144]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport recently completed research into intelligent speed adaptation (ISA) systems, the main aim of which was to look at the effect on driver behaviour over time. This found that ISA has the potential to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on our roads, suggesting that ISA could be a useful road safety feature for drivers who wish to use it.

The results were published on 15 September 2008 and the final report and an executive summary were placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report is also available on the internet at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/intelligentspeedadapt.

Data from this work have subsequently been used by the Commission for Integrated Transport and the Motorists' Forum for independent research looking at speed limit adherence and its effect on road safety and climate change. The Department was represented in an advisory capacity on the working group for this research. We have received a copy of their report which was published on 30 December 2008. We are clear that any future use of ISA should be taken forward by the motoring industry in response to consumer demand, just as with other technologies available for consumers to purchase if they so choose. We are working with industry and other stakeholders to facilitate the future availability of the technology.

Traffic Lights

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue red light cameras have generated in *(a)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(b)* Essex in each year since 2001; and how much of that revenue has been spent in Essex. [247996]

Paul Clark: Information in the form requested is not held by the Department for Transport. The Department only holds information about cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme. This ended on 31 March 2007 and did not record fine revenue from red light and speed cameras separately.

Transport: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what green travel incentives are offered to people working in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [247979]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport provides funding for Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland borough councils through their local transport plan and revenue support grant allocations. Such funding can be used to support sustainable travel initiatives. In addition, we publish guidance on the development of travel plans and encourage partnership working between the public and private sectors to deliver opportunities for individuals to choose more sustainable travel options.

Specific initiatives that exist within the constituency area of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland would be best provided by the local authorities mentioned previously and/or by canvassing local businesses.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds the Government has provided to the disarmament and demobilisation programmes of Mai Mai groups in *(a)* south Kivu and *(b)* the rest of Democratic Republic of Congo where the Mai Mai are active. [249528]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has contributed US$35 million to a World Bank led Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), which supports the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants in the greater Great Lakes region of Central Africa . The largest programme of its kind in the world, the MDRP, with a budget of US$500 million, targets an estimated 450,000 ex-combatants in seven countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The programme has already funded the demobilisation and reintegration of more than 100,000 former combatants in DRC.

Of the 100,000 who have benefited from the programme 33,708 were from Mai Mai groups, of which 28,235 were demobilised and the remaining 5,503 were integrated into the army. We do not have a breakdown for South Kivu. One challenge for the MDRP has been the large number of supposed 'combatants' who have tried to enter the programme without a weapon to hand in (a necessary determinant of eligibility). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is currently developing complementary community reintegration programming to target those who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the national MDRP programme.

Departmental Accounts

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Ilford North of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 755-6W, how much was spent under each resource account code in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [244774]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A summary of the main categories of expenditure is included in the Department for International Development's (DFID) Resource Accounts for 2006-07 (published in July 2007) and 2007-08 (published in July 2008). These are available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/

Departmental Consultants

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid to the external team who undertook the 2007 Capability Review. [246924]

Mr. Michael Foster: The external review team was paid £80,222.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's employees have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* disciplined following investigation and *(c)* dismissed following investigation since the inception of the Fraud Response Unit. [246889]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answers given to the hon. Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr. Mitchell) on 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1340W and 29 October 2008, *Official Report* column 1163W.

Departmental Equality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the role of his Department's Diversity Champion is; and what the process for selecting the champion is. [246910]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Working in a global environment means that diversity is at the heart of the Department for International Development's (DFID) business. DFID's Director General Diversity Champion is fully committed to the legal, economic and moral imperatives which help develop DFID into a flexible, imaginative and diverse Department. DFID's Diversity Champion is fully involved in taking steps to raise awareness and integrate all strands of diversity to maximise the potential and contribution of all staff to realise our goals.

DFID's Director General Diversity Champion role is rotated every few years among DFID's four Director Generals. DFID does not have a formal process for selecting a Director General for the Diversity Champion role.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's performance against each of its diversity targets was at the 2008 deadline. [246911]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) set four 2008 diversity targets for women, ethnic minority staff and disabled staff within the senior civil service and women in top management posts. The following table depicts the civil service targets together with DFID's 2008 targets and DFID's performance.

Civil service 2008 targets	*DFID 2008 target*	*Percentage DFID 2008 performance*
37 per cent. women in the senior civil service (SCS)	37	37
35 per cent. women in top management posts	35	35
4 per cent. ethnic minority staff in the SCS	12	11.7
3.2 per cent. disabled staff in the SCS	4	2.1

DFID's diversity monitoring data and analysis for the last three years can be found at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by his Department for public access to services. [246976]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses one 0845 number for our Public Enquiry Point which allows members of the public to call DFID about the work of the Department.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247346]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses one 0845 number for our Public Enquiry Point. We are currently reviewing the relative costs and benefits of alternatives to the 0845 number. DFID does not make use of revenue-sharing numbers.

DFID does not have any contracted public service providers who make use of 0844, 0845 or revenue-sharing numbers.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost has been to his Department of installation of video-conferencing facilities; and whether there are ongoing maintenance contract costs associated with these facilities. [246888]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) completed a project in 2008 to refresh the videoconferencing facilities across the organisation. The full cost of this was £785,000. There is an annual cost of £75,000 for maintaining the key components of the videoconferencing infrastructure.

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* plans and *(b)* funding allocations have been made for the long-term provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. [247038]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 20WS.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his

Department has provided to Gaza since the recent outbreak of conflict there. [247429]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made on 19 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 20WS.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial assistance was provided by his Department to *(a)* Palestine and *(b)* Israel in 2007-08. [249673]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08 the Department for International Development provided a total of £63.6 million in development aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

During the same period we gave no assistance to Israel.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what his most recent assessment is of progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health; [248176]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to contribute towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal on maternal health. [248177]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest and most comprehensive assessment of global progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including the goal to improve maternal health (MDG 5), is contained in the 2008 United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report. This noted that the maternal health MDG is severely off-track with little progress having been made in saving mothers' lives. The report is available at:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/The%20Millennium%20Development%20Goals%20Report%202008.pdf

DFID continues to work to accelerate progress to achieving both the targets of MDG 5. In October 2007 DFID announced an additional £100 million over five years to prevent unwanted pregnancies and make childbirth safer. This money is helping the UN Population Fund provide condoms, contraceptive pills and sexual health advice to poor people in South Asia and Africa. In June 2008, the UK Government announced a commitment to spend £6 billion on improving health systems and services over seven years to 2015.

Work is currently under way to revise and update DFID's Maternal Health strategy for publication later this year. The strategy will set out what DFID will do to contribute to the achievement of the MDG 5 targets. A stakeholder consultation day was held on 13 January 2009 at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Further consultation is planned in the near future.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment has been made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [246167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The humanitarian situation in Somalia is critical and there is a high risk of further deterioration. The UN has reported that a higher proportion of people in Somalia require relief assistance than in any other country in the world, with 43 per cent. of the population (3.2 million) requiring assistance in 2008. Nearly one sixth of the children in southern and central regions are starving, displacement is very high and ongoing and normal lives are severely disrupted.

The UK contributes substantially to humanitarian responses and committed approximately £27 million during 2008, making the UK the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor. UK funds were also used through our support to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and through our contributions to the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO).

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations the Government's Equalities Office has provided funding since it was established; and how much funding was provided to each. [247368]

Maria Eagle: Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has provided funding totalling £134,720 to registered charities and £81,929 to voluntary organisations as follows:

Charity	£
Help the Aged	6,174
British Association for Adoption and Fostering	22,546
Ethnic Minority Foundation	6,000
Rape Crisis Centres[1]	100,000
Total	134,720

[1] This is GEO's contribution to an interdepartmental budget of £1,100,000.

Voluntary organisation	£
Working Families	49,799
WEA West Midlands	20,880
Wise Works	11,250
Total	81,929

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving departmental buildings by the Government Equalities Office since its inception; how much has been spent on wallpaper; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248064]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office leases its accommodation from Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office, who are responsible for any maintenance, decoration and improvements.

GEO has not spent any money directly on these areas, and none on wallpaper. The GEO has no plans to spend any money on departmental decoration and the leases it has would not, in any case, permit this.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied the Government Equalities Office since its inception; and how much has been paid to each of those suppliers. [248795]

Maria Eagle: Since its creation on 12 October 2007, the GEO has paid £16,437 to food and drink companies for refreshments at GEO events. In most cases, these companies have provided food and drink and we are unable to separate the costs for each. The companies used and the payments made are as follows:

Company	*Total expenditure (£)*
Avenance Ltd.	97
Beehive Ltd.	182
Cally B	2,820
Company of Cooks Ltd.	465
Epicurus	734
House of Commons Catering Department	500
House of Lords Catering Department	1,447
Marks and Spencer Catering Ltd.	179
MITIE Ltd.	9,986
Starbucks Coffee Ltd.	27
Total	16,437

Public Lavatories: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps she is taking to increase the provision in public buildings of toilets fully accessible to those with disabilities; and if she will make a statement. [248133]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Communities and Local Government are responsible for the Building Regulations 2000. In line with the Disability Discrimination Act, Part M of the Building Regulations (section 5.5—Provision of Toilet Accommodation) states the requirement that toilet accommodation must be suitable for disabled people as well as other people who use public buildings.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 823W, on Ministers: official residences, what plans he has to bring forward proposals to repeal those provisions of the Greater London Highways and Road Traffic (Various Provisions) Order 2000 which exempt South Eaton Place from standard parking controls. [245936]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

62 South Eaton Place is protected as part of the Whitehall security zone because it was my right hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett's) place of residence during his time as Home Secretary. In February 2008, Westminster city council submitted an application to the Department for Transport to have the Whitehall security zone reduced to Whitehall and the streets leading from it. The Metropolitan Police Service have now agreed with Westminster's application to reduce the security zone. When the Department receives a formal request to amend the Greater London Highways and Road Traffic (Various Provisions) Order 2000 it will do so.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

AWE Aldermaston

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reason the Government decided to sell the remaining portion of its stake in AWE Aldermaston; and what sum it received from the sale. [247045]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have not sold any of their stake in the Atomic Weapons Establishment itself. All Atomic Weapons Establishment sites and assets remain in Government ownership, as they have done since the Atomic Weapons Establishment was first contractorised in 1993. What happened on 17 December was that BNFL reached agreement to sell its one-third share in AWE Management Limited (AWEML) to Jacobs Engineering Group subject to clearance under EU merger control requirements. AWEML is the consortium of BNFL, Serco and Lockheed Martin that has the 25 year contract with MOD to manage and operate the Atomic Weapons Establishment on MOD's behalf. The sale of the one-third share arose as a result of the dismantling of BNFL and the terms remain confidential between the parties.

Further details of the sale and the nature of AWEML's relationship with AWE plc are given in the written statements that I gave to the House on 12 January this year, *Official Report*, column 1WS and my right hon. Friend, the previous Secretary of State gave to the House on 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1WS, respectively.

Broadband Stakeholders Group

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* administrative and *(b)* financial support his Department has provided for the Broadband Stakeholders Group since it was established. [247422]

Mr. McFadden: This Department contributes to the overall costs of the Broadband Stakeholders Group (BSG) with the remaining costs being provided by public sector membership subscriptions and support from Intellect. The Government's contribution totalled approximately £820,000 over the last five and a half

years and the annual percentage contribution from Government has been reduced during this time. The support is for operational and some specific project costs.

This Department does not provide administrative support to the BSG but has representation on the BSG Executive Committee.

The BSG helps advise the Government on Broadband issues of the day and provides an Industry/Government forum for exploring issues relating to the knowledge based economy, and utilisation of digital technologies.

Caio Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* total and *(b)* staffing cost of the Caio Review was. [247434]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 January 2009]*: The total cost of the Caio Review was approximately £119,500 for the six month period of the review; and includes staffing costs totalling approximately £113,000.

The Government will be responding to the review in due course.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247366]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not generally make charitable donations but may have given grants to charitable bodies through a number of our programmes, but the status of the organisations are not recorded. The Department, however, does provide grant in aid for operating purposes to the following organisations that are registered as charities. The organisations and amounts are as follows:

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Citizen Advice	23.855	23.855	21.470	21.470	21.470
Citizen Advice Scotland	3.240	3.240	2.916	3.016	3.389

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248069]

Mr. McFadden: Based on business demand, there are 22 civil servants in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform receiving language training from our preferred supplier. There are no Ministers receiving departmentally-funded language training.

The total expenditure for 2008 was £13,451.43. Languages undertaken were French, German, Spanish, Polish and Mandarin.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [243721]

Mr. McFadden: Central financial records indicate that spending by this Department on advertising in the last financial year was £2,778,400.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many working days have been lost due to sickness amongst employees for which his Department is and its predecessor department was responsible for each year since 1997. [248875]

Mr. McFadden: Cabinet Office has introduced a revised format for reporting sickness absence statistics across the civil service. The new format was introduced at the end of March 2008 and the first report covers the calendar year 2007. It indicates 6.1 average working days lost per employee due to sickness.

Sickness absence data for the Department's predecessor, the Department of Trade and Industry, for 2006-07, 2005, 2004 and 2003, including the average number of days taken as sick leave, are published on the public civil service website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics/sickness.asp

along with data for other Departments and agencies.

Earlier sickness data are not readily available and the cost of producing these would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247335]

Mr. McFadden: From the central records that are available, (i) there are seven 0845 telephone numbers services administered by the Department for public use. These are

0845 015 0010: BERR Publications Orderline

0845 015 0020: BERR Publications Orderline (Fax)

0845 015 0030: BERR Publications Orderline (Minicom)

0845 019 0001: Personnel Training Services Consortium

0845 600 0678: National Minimum Wage

0845 600 9006: Business Link Helpline

0845 955 5105: Employment Agency Standards.

The Department does not operate any revenue-sharing numbers. No records are held to show if the Department has ever used or benefited financially from revenue-sharing numbers in the past five years.

No telephone information is available from BERR's central records on the use of 0844/5 and revenue-sharing numbers by its contracted service providers

The Department has no immediate plans to use 03 prefixed numbers.

Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will increase the number of Employment Agency Standards inspectors and helpline staff; and if he will make a statement. [248372]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has recently doubled the number of Employment Agency Standards inspectors. There has been no increase in the number of helpline/ intelligence staff. There are no plans to make further changes in the immediate future.

It's Your Call Road Show

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to his Department's press release of 18 November 2008, what the budget is for the It's Your Call Road Show; when the road show will *(a)* commence and *(b)* conclude; which are the 28 towns and cities it will visit; and what were the criteria by which those locations were selected. [241639]

Mr. McFadden: The budget for the 'Its Your Call' road show is £250,000. The road show was launched on 18 November and commenced in Cardiff on 19 November, it will conclude on 7 February 2009. During this time the road show is visiting; Cardiff, Bristol, Newport, Swansea, Stirling, Kilmarnock, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Huddersfield, Sheffield, Norwich, Peterborough, Leicester, Derby, Liverpool, Blackburn, Manchester, Coventry, Nottingham, Birmingham, Newcastle, Middlesbrough, Sunderland, London, Portsmouth and Plymouth. We have chosen locations which have a large number of low paid workers as we want to reach as many people as possible who could be affected by the minimum wage.

Post Offices: Churches

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office services are accommodated in church buildings; and where each is located. [248148]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Closures

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate Post Office Ltd. has made of the savings from recent post office branch closures. [249221]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. is forecasting annual savings of £45 million from post office closures implemented under its Network Change Programme, as part of a wider programme of cost reductions.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on the consultation on the recent round of Post Office branch closures. [249313]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member. Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Proof of Identity: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to ensure age verification online by e-tailers. [245249]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe the existing legislation relating to consumer protection by age verification is sufficient as these regulations regarding age appropriate goods apply online as they do offline. We expect online and offline retailers to take appropriate measures to ensure that age-restricted goods are not made available to people under the relevant age.

Public Bodies: Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009 to Question 244582, when he expects the first complete figures on performance in making payments to suppliers within 10 days to be available. [248687]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: Government Departments will report performance against the new 10-day payment target in their annual reports, following the established procedure for reporting 30-day payment performance.

Achieving the new 10-day target requires changes in systems, guidance and behaviour in both departmental and supplier systems. It is therefore important that we monitor initial progress and I have asked Departments to collect interim data for the months of November and December and then for the quarter ending March 2009. I expect these data to be available at the end of January 2009 and by the end of April 2009 respectively.

Regional Development Agencies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the operating costs were for each regional development agency in England in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* July 2008, *(d)* August 2008, *(e)* September 2008 and *(f)* October 2008; and what he assesses the effect on for the economy was of the operation of the regional development agencies. [246088]

Mr. McFadden: Operating costs are defined as staffing plus administration costs. The table shows the operating costs for each Regional Development Agency (RDA) for 2006-07 and 2007-08. However, the totals provided for July, August, September and October 2008 are not audited management account figures and therefore some elements included in the statutory accounts such as depreciation charges are excluded from the sums presented.

In relation to the question on benefits to the economy from RDAs operations; the Government have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs. Their report has just been completed and I will be presenting it to the House shortly.

Total operating costs

£ million

			2008-09[1]			
RDA	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*
AWM	21.3	30.5	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.0
EEDA	15.9	17.1	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.1
EMDA	16.4	17.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
LDA	45.7	43.8	4.1	3.2	3.7	3.6
NWDA	38.8	34.3	2.8	4.2	3.1	3.0
ONE	24.8	24.7	1.9	2.3	2.3	2.5
SEEDA	24.3	26.1	1.8	3.2	1.8	2.3
SWRDA	23.1	24.4	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.9
YF	23.7	[2]28.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8

[1] Figures for 2008-09 have not been audited.

[2] This figure includes £3,178,000 of expenditure incurred by subsidiaries. Costs incurred by subsidiaries of YF were consolidated into the Agency's accounts in 2007-08 for the first time. In 2006-07 costs incurred by subsidiaries were not included with those of YF. For comparison purposes, the subsidiaries cost for 2006-07 was £3,616,000.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what functions regional development agencies have to promote economic competition between regions; and if he will make a statement. [248525]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Regional development agencies have the primary purpose of furthering economic development and regeneration in their areas. Ministers have made it clear to RDAs that in rebalancing national and regional efforts, they expect RDAs to avoid duplication and competition among themselves.

There has been, at times, perceived competition for example on Inward Investment projects. However, the UK economy is the winner from such investments in whatever region of the UK that brings investment and new jobs as well as safeguarding existing jobs.

Royal Mail

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will establish a mechanism to ensure that the private sector partner for Royal Mail may never take a majority stake; what new technology will be put in place across Royal Mail; what the timetable for the tender process will be; and if he will make a statement. [248366]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend, the Secretary of State said in his statement on 16 December 2008 that his Department will want to study the report in detail and he would respond with a full statement of Government policy in the early part of next year. He was clear that the proposed partnership is on a minority basis and the Government have a commitment to keep Royal Mail publicly owned.

What technology is rolled out across Royal Mail is a matter for the company's management and I have asked Adam Crozier to respond direct to my hon. Friend on this. I will ensure that copies of his reply are in the Libraries of the House.

The detailed process, and timetable for engaging with those interested in entering into a partnership with Royal Mail, is still being developed but it is expected to commence early this year.

Royal Mail: Pay

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what remuneration package the Chairman of Royal Mail received in respect of the financial year 2007-08; and how many days he worked as Chairman of the Board in 2007-08. [247870]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* In 2007-08, Allan Leighton received £200,000 in remuneration for working his contractual two-day week obligation to Royal Mail, which he fulfilled.

Small Businesses: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small to medium-sized enterprises were registered in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area and *(c)* Cheadle constituency in each year since 1997. [244812]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* Estimates of the number of registered small to medium-sized enterprises, in each of the last five years, are not available below the regional level.

Only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT are published by BERR. It is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and a further 1.7 per cent. will be medium-sized (with 50-249 employees).

The number of businesses registered for VAT in Stockport metropolitan borough, Cheadle and the North West for the start of 1997 to the start of 2008 is shown in the following table.

Start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses, 1997-2008

Start of year	*Cheadle parliamentary constituency*	*Stockport*	*North West region*
1997	2,475	7,840	160,165
1998	2,525	7,935	162,685
1999	2,590	8,095	165,080
2000	2,615	8,130	167,085
2001	2,630	8,315	169,040
2002	2,645	8,370	170,730
2003	2,710	8,485	172,650
2004	2,755	8,665	176,900
2005	2,790	8,830	180,355
2006	2,860	9,020	184,725
2007	2,910	9,165	188,735
2008	3,015	9,435	194,695

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication "Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007" available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Stockport metropolitan borough rose from 7,840 at the start of 1997 to 9,435 at the start of 2008—a rise of 20 per cent.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Cheadle rose from 2,475 at the start of 1997 to 3,015 at the start of 2008—a rise of 22 per cent.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in the North West rose from 160,165 at the start of 1997 to 194,695 at the start of 2008—a rise of 22 per cent.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many small and medium-sized enterprises were registered in *(a)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough, *(b)* Greater Manchester and *(c)* the North West in each of the last five years. [246075]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of the number of registered small to medium-sized enterprise, in each of the last five years, are not available below the regional level.

Only data for businesses of all sizes registered for VAT are published by BERR. It is estimated that the majority (97.9 per cent.) of these will be small (with fewer than 50 employees) and a further 1.7 per cent. will be medium-sized (with 50 to 249 employees).

The number of businesses registered for VAT in Stockport metropolitan borough, Greater Manchester and the north-west for the start of 2004 to the start of 2008 is shown in the following table.

Start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses, 2004-08

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Stockport Metropolitan Borough	8,665	8,830	9,020	9,165	9,435
Greater Manchester	64,665	65,745	67,350	68,830	70,800
The North West	176,900	180,355	184,725	188,735	194,695

Source:
BERR National Statistics publication 'Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 2007' available at:
http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Stockport metropolitan borough rose from 8,665 at the start of 2004 to 9,435 at the start of 2008—a rise of 9 per cent.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in Greater Manchester rose from 64,665 at the start of 2004 to 70,800 at the start of 2008—a rise of 9 per cent.

The number of VAT-registered businesses in the north-west rose from 176,900 at the start of 2004 to 194,695 at the start of 2008—a rise of 10 per cent.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £64,000 at the start of 2007. Only 1.96 million out of 4.7 million UK enterprises (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2007.

Small Businesses: Procurement

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the cost of running the Supply2.gov.uk website in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what he estimates this cost to be in 2008-09. [246769]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* The supply2.gov.uk site is operated under a concession type contract with the supplier carrying the commercial risk. The initial set up cost borne by the Department of Trade and Industry in 2006 was £120,000. In 2008-09 BERR funded the provision of a free trial for businesses which ran between 1 May and 31 July 2008, at a cost of £110,310 (ex VAT). No other payments have been made in relation to the portal.

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses were registered with Supply2.gov.uk in each month since June 2006; and how many he expects to register in each month to March 2009. [246770]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* No figures are available for business registrations on supply2.gov.uk. The number of supplier user registrations to November 2008 is set out in the following table.

	Number of supplier user registrations
June 2006	3,643
July 2006	5,556
August 2006	3,793
September 2006	3,544
October 2006	4,056
November 2006	2,954
December 2006	2,189
January 2007	2,708
February 2007	3,064
March 2007	2,996
April 2007	2,650
May 2007	2,284
June 2007	2,367
July 2007	2,461
August 2007	2,404
September 2007	2,025
October 2007	3,055

	Number of supplier user registrations
November 2007	2,426
December 2007	2,289
January 2008	3,342
February 2008	3,158
March 2008	2,891
April 2008	3,160
May 2008	5,821
June 2008	4,079
July 08	12,642
August 08	3,657
September 08	4,063
October 08	4,555
November 08	4,257

3,400 users are projected to register in each month between December 2008 and March 2009.

Trade Unions

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many trade union members there are in the UK; and in which 10 industries the proportion of employees who are union members is lowest. [248483]

Mr. McFadden: In 2007, the period for when latest data are available, the number of employees who were trade union members in the United Kingdom was approximately seven million.

In terms of the proportions, 28.0 per cent. of all employees were union members in the United Kingdom. The proportion of trade union members, broken down by the main industry groups and ranked from lowest to highest, is shown in the following table.

Trade union density of UK employees[1] by industry, 2007

Industry	Percentage
Hotels and restaurants	4.9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7.9
Real estate and business services	10.2
Wholesale, retail and motor trade	11.3
Construction	15.5
Other services	18.6
Manufacturing	21.8
Financial Intermediation	22.3
Mining and quarrying	23.1
Transport, storage and communication	40.1
Health and social work	43.4
Electricity, gas and water supply	45.6
Education	55.3
Public administration and defence	56.8

[1] Excludes members of the armed forces.
Source:
Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Working Hours: EU Law

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Parliament's vote on the Working Time Directive on 17 December 2008 for his Department's policy on the Directive. [248367]

Mr. McFadden: The UK is one of 14 member states that enables workers to opt-out of the maximum 48-hour working week, should they wish to do so. This flexibility is used by over three million employees in the UK who choose to work longer hours. Loss of this opt-out would therefore cost the UK billions both in costs to industry and lost earnings. As a result, it could also only have a negative impact on overall employment levels.

The Government remain committed to fight for the continuation of this important flexibility and will be calling on the European Council to reject the damaging amendments on the Working Time Common Position adopted by the European Parliament.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Age

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average age of *(a)* men and *(b)* women resident in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England was at the latest date for which information is available. [247600]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on what the average age is of (a) men and (b) women resident in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England at the latest date for which data is available. (247600)

The median age of the resident male and female population in North Yorkshire England was 42 years and 45 years respectively, and the median age of the male and female population in England was 38 and 40 years respectively. These data are based on mid-2007 population estimates which are the latest available.

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average change in prices was for *(a)* beer and *(b)* wines and spirits on (i) sales and (ii) off sales in real terms in each year since 1987; and what the change in average weekly earnings was between each of those years. [246754]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average change in prices was for (a) beer and (b) wines and spirits on (i) sales and (ii) off sales in real terms in each year since 1987; and what the change in average weekly earnings was between each of those years. (246754)

The table below shows the annual percentage changes for the all items retail prices index and the components for beer and wines and spirits. The beer and wines and spirits data are available from 1988.

Retail Prices Index and components: annual percentage change

		Beer			Wine and spirits		
	Total RPI	Total	On sales	Off sales	Total	On sales	Off sales
1987	4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1988	4.9	6.1	6.3	4.0	3.6	5.2	2.5
1989	7.8	6.4	6.8	4.2	4.5	5.4	3.7

Retail Prices Index and components: annual percentage change

	Total RPI	Beer			Wine and spirits		
		Total	On sales	Off sales	Total	On sales	Off sales
1990	9.5	10.0	10.4	6.8	9.2	9.8	8.7
1991	5.9	12.8	13.1	10.5	11.8	12.4	11.4
1992	3.7	6.7	7.1	5.0	6.0	6.7	5.4
1993	1.6	5.1	5.4	3.4	3.4	4.6	2.7
1994	2.4	3.1	3.8	-1.3	1.6	3.3	0.6
1995	3.5	4.2	4.4	2.6	3.1	5.0	2.2
1996	2.4	3.5	3.5	3.3	1.9	2.8	1.5
1997	3.1	3.7	3.9	3.0	1.4	3.3	0.3
1998	3.4	4.0	4.4	2.5	2.5	3.9	1.7
1999	1.5	3.2	3.6	1.5	1.7	3.2	0.8
2000	3.0	2.1	2.4	0.9	0.9	2.7	-0.4
2001	1.8	2.3	2.7	0.5	1.8	3.1	0.7
2002	1.7	2.3	2.8	-0.6	2.2	3.6	0.7
2003	2.9	2.2	3.0	-1.8	2.1	3.3	0.3
2004	3.0	2.0	2.9	-2.7	1.9	2.5	0.8
2005	2.8	2.3	3.4	-3.4	1.5	2.5	0.4
2006	3.2	2.9	3.4	-0.3	1.9	3.0	0.6
2007	4.3	3.5	3.9	0.7	2.4	3.4	1.2

Details of percentage change in average earnings over the period 1987 to 2007 are shown in the following table:

Average Earnings Index—GB

Annual averages	Annual percentage change
1987	7.7
1988	8.7
1989	9.2
1990	9.8
1991	7.6
1992	5.9
1993	2.9
1994	3.7
1995	3.1
1996	3.6
1997	4.2
1998	5.2
1999	4.8
2000	4.5
2001	4.4
2002	3.5
2003	3.3
2004	4.5
2005	4.0
2006	4.1
2007	4.0

Cancer: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office of National Statistics has made of the number of patients diagnosed with cancer in each Westminster constituency in Scotland in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004, *(c)* 2005, *(d)* 2006 and *(e)* 2007, broken down by cancer type. [241486]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics has made of the number of patients diagnosed with cancer in each Westminster constituency in Scotland in (a) 2003, (b) 2004, (c) 2005, (d) 2006 and (e) 2007, broken down by cancer type. [241486]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2005 for Scotland. Table 1 shows the number of patients diagnosed with the most common cancers (colorectal, lung, breast and prostate) in each Westminster constituency in Scotland in (a) 2003, (b) 2004, and (c) 2005. Further statistics on cancer in Scotland are available at the following website:

www.isdscotland.org/cancer.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of colorectal, lung, breast and prostate cancer[1], persons: parliamentary constituency[2] in Scotland, 2003 to 2005

Constituency of residence	Colorectal			Lung			Breast			Prostate		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Aberdeen North	60	56	63	97	92	83	63	62	55	39	40	47
Aberdeen South	63	61	54	65	65	67	66	58	82	43	46	26
Airdrie and Shotts	41	51	46	69	74	82	65	45	59	20	28	22
Angus	61	84	52	72	95	70	46	52	104	32	31	26
Argyll and Bute	73	70	79	82	81	73	123	72	61	50	40	45
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	81	83	76	85	86	83	66	96	58	65	86	59
Banff and Buchan	51	63	54	52	71	66	66	68	65	33	48	38
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	81	82	80	73	73	64	55	53	144	65	63	57
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	34	52	39	50	56	42	57	63	34	50	42	50
Central Ayrshire	62	58	65	88	93	69	73	64	68	56	59	36
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	49	55	43	99	85	84	58	57	69	24	21	26
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East	50	51	58	91	79	79	86	42	51	23	47	28
Dumfries and Galloway	71	94	80	95	88	109	81	90	110	55	48	61
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	63	65	57	79	74	84	85	63	79	39	55	42
Dundee East	64	77	69	89	89	82	80	74	75	41	35	30

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of colorectal, lung, breast and prostate cancer[1], persons: parliamentary constituency[2] in Scotland, 2003 to 2005

	Colorectal			Lung			Breast			Prostate		
Constituency of residence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Dundee West	51	61	57	88	89	88	55	61	58	30	38	34
Dunfermline and West Fife	56	58	40	43	68	65	63	76	61	47	39	53
East Dunbartonshire	72	53	60	48	58	55	76	92	63	53	65	51
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	65	58	55	67	98	90	66	106	54	22	59	45
East Lothian	67	82	72	69	90	92	75	52	74	62	52	62
East Renfrewshire	47	53	56	65	69	76	73	67	89	52	47	35
Edinburgh East	52	65	54	73	87	77	63	53	66	46	24	41
Edinburgh North and Leith	51	58	46	61	66	62	56	58	88	47	35	46
Edinburgh South	45	55	52	48	60	52	64	73	45	36	49	62
Edinburgh South West	53	57	55	69	80	80	83	69	48	44	39	51
Edinburgh West	66	66	82	54	94	72	74	57	101	69	69	81
Falkirk	60	60	51	93	83	101	62	126	46	79	64	65
Glasgow Central	59	45	35	100	103	91	37	44	40	20	24	21
Glasgow East	64	65	62	131	143	125	62	67	71	31	39	44
Glasgow North	33	34	37	75	73	59	36	42	42	29	20	21
Glasgow North East	56	64	63	130	154	133	54	61	66	41	41	29
Glasgow North West	60	52	60	88	104	100	74	66	74	31	52	35
Glasgow South	57	47	48	97	80	102	60	78	57	36	34	35
Glasgow South West	48	59	65	118	104	117	60	54	52	36	31	33
Glenrothes	55	64	52	94	91	75	84	51	63	33	36	43
Gordon	84	66	65	47	57	55	66	56	60	38	42	40
Inverclyde	67	57	49	109	98	90	64	106	46	43	58	35
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey	75	62	61	64	67	65	58	78	84	59	55	68
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	78	57	64	98	68	91	74	60	60	46	49	45
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	64	65	63	96	93	108	110	46	59	50	49	52
Lanark and Hamilton East	71	64	57	78	81	75	85	91	65	39	49	46
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	70	62	68	98	92	85	72	117	87	83	73	76
Livingston	40	48	65	83	94	80	64	94	73	50	66	66
Midlothian	54	39	53	73	67	90	52	51	121	40	47	34
Moray	72	58	62	56	80	68	47	57	88	44	49	44
Motherwell and Wishaw	48	65	65	95	107	82	45	50	111	20	32	19
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21	26	38	25	20	28	10	18	29	25	11	18
North Ayrshire and Arran	69	71	81	92	98	99	55	87	95	57	67	46
North East Fife	60	64	67	67	50	63	85	58	54	47	51	29
Ochil and South Perthshire	75	74	74	80	80	86	68	101	69	59	47	68
Orkney and Shetland	31	35	36	33	25	23	44	37	22	27	28	29
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	40	55	61	73	82	89	57	64	75	27	31	26
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	58	60	51	77	82	87	73	65	67	22	20	24
Perth and North Perthshire	84	70	64	65	78	63	77	101	69	50	68	42
Ross, Skye and Lochaber	28	46	54	39	43	48	60	38	54	45	36	32
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	57	55	73	93	99	105	58	90	65	38	56	38
Stirling	54	58	67	62	68	66	59	63	93	54	64	43
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	68	46	51	41	46	41	95	60	56	33	31	35
West Dunbartonshire	58	60	46	113	90	93	85	54	54	36	37	40

[1] Colorectal cancer is coded to C18-C20, lung cancer is coded to C33-C34, breast cancer is coded to C50, prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
Source:
Scottish Cancer Registry

Children: Ethnic Groups

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many children in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England were of (i) white, (ii) Pakistani or Bangladeshi and (iii) black non-Caribbean ethnicity in the latest period for which figures are available. [247610]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many children in (a) the Vale of York and (b) England were of (i) white, (ii) Pakistani or Bangladeshi and (iii) black non-Caribbean ethnicity in the latest period for which figures are available. (247610)

The information that is available is given in the table attached. The figures in the table are estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS) for the twelve month period July 2007 to June 2008.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to sampling error and a margin of uncertainty.

Number of children living within Vale of York parliamentary constituency and England by ethnic grouping and age band. Annual Population Survey, July 2007 to June 2008

Thousands

	0-15	16-17	18-19
Vale of York			
Black (excluding Caribbean)	[1]	[1]	[1]
Pakistani	[1]	[1]	[1]
Bangladeshi	[1]	[1]	[1]
White (British)	15	2	1
Other White	[1]	[1]	[1]
England			
Black (excluding Caribbean)	285	25	28
Pakistani	317	32	35
Bangladeshi	117	12	9
White (British)	7,605	1,104	1,078
Other White	311	36	43

[1] Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

Notes:

1. As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey are subject to sampling error and a margin of uncertainty.
2. Estimates are weighted to the population estimates published by ONS in 2007.

Source:

Annual Population Survey.

Elderly

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people over *(a)* 60 and *(b)* 80 years of age there were in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England in each year since 2005. [247599]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on how many people over (a) 60 and (b) 80 years of age there were in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England in each year since 2005. (247599)

The table below shows the estimated mid-year resident population of people over 60 and 80 years of age in North Yorkshire and England for 2006 and 2007. The latest population estimates available are for mid-2007.

Mid-year population estimates, 2006 and 2007

Thousand

	Age-group	
	Over 60	Over 80
Mid-2006		
North Yorkshire	141	28
England	10,200	1,998
Mid-2007		
North Yorkshire	144	28
England	10,354	2,041

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

JUSTICE

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of crimes involving cruelty to animals in each year since 1997. [248357]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences involving animal cruelty, in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (Latest available) are in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of animal cruelty offences[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

Number

1997	1,041
1998	1,051
1999	945
2000	946
2001	826
2002	847
2003	842
2004	858
2005	928
2006	848
2007	968

[1] The offences of animal cruelty are covered by the following acts: The Protection of Animals Act 1911, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Performing Animals (Regulations) Act 1926, Protection of Animals Act 1934, Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949, Pet Animals Act 1951, Cockfighting Act 1952, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, Animal Health Act 1981, Slaughterhouses Act 1974, Abandonment of Animals Act 1960, Animal and Animal Products (Imports Export) Regulations 1998, Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962, Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970, Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967, Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, Badgers Act 1973, Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000, the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Coroners and Justice Bill 2008-09

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proposals he has to ensure security of personal data under legislative proposals for increased data sharing in the Coroners and Justice Bill. [247966]

Mr. Wills: All Government Departments must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) when sharing personal data and must also meet the mandatory requirements on holding personal information, as set out in the Cabinet Office's Data Handling Review.

Under the power contained in Part 8 of the Coroners and Justice Bill, the Government proposes that all information-sharing orders must be necessary to achieve a specified purpose, proportionate and strike a fair balance between the public interest and the rights of the individual to privacy. Ministers who wish to make an information-sharing order will need to prepare a privacy impact assessment; invite representations from any person affected by it and take these representations into account; and give the Information Commissioner the opportunity to report independently on the proposal. Any information-sharing order will be subject to affirmative resolution by both Houses of Parliament.

In addition to the Information Commissioner's current powers to assess a data controller's compliance under the DPA, the Coroners and Justice Bill also proposes to create a new compulsory assessment for public bodies.

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for legal aid have been made in order to secure legal representation at the inquest into the deaths of armed forces personnel since January 2003; and how many such applications have been granted. [247783]

Mr. Malik: Applications for exceptional funding are made to the Legal Services Commission (LSC), the independent body which administers the legal aid scheme, in the first instance. Exceptional funding legal aid can be granted by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) on the recommendation of the LSC for representation at inquests, if the exceptional funding criteria are met.

The LSC does not break down the number of applications it receives for representation at inquests by category of inquest.

The MoJ has received applications relating to 16 military inquests since January 2003 and has granted funding for all 16 inquests.

Courts: Per Capita Costs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per prisoner per night of housing a prisoner in a court cell was in each of the last 12 months. [248008]

Mr. Straw: NOMS paid contractors standby and activation costs to staff court cells in eight courts in England and Wales in February 2008 only. The average payment to contractors was £158 per night for each court cell that was available for use. The cost does not include marginal costs such as medical care or utilities and cannot be broken down by month.

Dangerous Dogs: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since 1997. [247682]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of persons found guilty of offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act in England and Wales from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are in the following table.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts of offences under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1,2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Found guilty	241	406	442	459	522	517	531	582	625	668	782

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Dangerous Driving: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in each year since 1997. [247683]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving[1]*, 1997 to 2007*[2,3]*, England and Wales*

	Number
1997	205
1998	203
1999	173
2000	193
2001	227
2002	228
2003	233
2004	241

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving[1], 1997 to 2007[2, 3], England and Wales

	Number
2005	255
2006	223
2007	233

[1] Section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, as added by section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1991.
[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department's central media and communication unit has spent on public surveys since its inception. [248028]

Mr. Wills: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007, the central media and communication unit of the department has spent a total of £31,200 on public surveys.

Drugs: Convictions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of drug offences in each year since 1997. [247708]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 are contained in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons found guilty at all courts for drug offences in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	Drug Offence Group
	Found guilty
1997	40,666
1998	48,821
1999	48,711
2000	44,621
2001	45,621
2002	49,036
2003	51,162
2004	39,197
2005	39,090
2006	39,582
2007	44,565

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.
Source:
OCJR, E and A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Drugs: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* community sentences, including drug treatment and testing orders and drug rehabilitation referrals, *(b)* fines, *(c)* custodial sentences and *(d)* cautions were issued for drug dealing offences relating to each type of drug in each of the last five years. [248653]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Number of persons issued with community sentences[1], fines, custodial sentences and cautions for drug dealing offences[2] relating to each type of drug 2003-07

	Type of sentence				
Year/type of drug	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Caution
2003					
Cocaine	24	115	23	973	56
Heroin	19	401	36	1,979	39
LSD	0	3	0	4	4
MDMA	34	285	28	588	62
Crack	4	53	7	375	15
Methadone	1	11	0	10	8
Other class A	11	133	15	486	22
Amphetamine	12	92	17	146	20
Other class B	7	52	63	55	28
Cannabis	144	980	4	697	570
Anabolic Steroid	1	1	1	2	1
Other class C	6	35	2	17	20
Ketamine[3]	*	*	*	4	*
Methylamphetamine[4]	*	*	*	*	*
GHB	0	0	0	0	0

Number of persons issued with community sentences[1], fines, custodial sentences and cautions for drug dealing offences[2] relating to each type of drug 2003-07

Year/type of drug	Type of sentence				
	Fine	*Community sentence*	*Suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Caution*
2004					
Cocaine	17	166	12	1,029	66
Heroin	10	406	31	2,077	48
LSD	1	0	0	9	0
MDMA	15	252	16	494	59
Crack	3	71	4	386	19
Methadone	4	10	1	10	10
Other class A	7	105	6	546	29
Amphetamine	15	107	19	156	29
Other class B	4	40	61	46	14
Cannabis	122	821	2	576	555
Anabolic Steroid	0	5	0	4	4
Other class C	33	109	19	127	165
Ketamine	*	*	*	*	*
Methylamphetamine	*	*	*	*	*
GHB	0	0	0	0	0
2005					
Cocaine	28	223	41	1,064	73
Heroin	10	526	48	1,750	65
LSD	0	7	1	9	1
MDMA	15	224	32	453	72
Crack	0	93	17	604	31
Methadone	1	10	4	9	11
Other class A	12	184	20	494	42
Amphetamine	13	129	29	153	25
Other class B	3	15	72	27	6
Cannabis	87	685	3	467	635
Anabolic Steroid	0	2	0	4	3
Other class C	47	360	53	309	90
Ketamine	*	*	*	*	*
Methylamphetamine	*	*	*	*	*
GHB	0	0	0	0	1
2006					
Cocaine	21	163	141	1,132	132
Heroin	8	365	205	1,657	56
LSD	0	1	4	4	7
MDMA	24	124	89	337	87
Crack	7	82	40	453	30
Methadone	1	7	5	9	11
Other class A	6	123	59	494	54
Amphetamine	3	89	77	163	36
Other class B	2	11	271	7	9
Cannabis	50	496	7	341	623
Anabolic Steroid	0	1	1	0	5
Other class C	39	288	256	399	66
Ketamine	1	1	1	1	1
Methylamphetamine	*	*	*	*	*
GHB	0	0	0	0	1
2007					
Cocaine	25	189	260	1,190	146
Heroin	10	288	260	1,706	45
LSD	2	4	2	7	6
MDMA	9	121	169	369	68
Crack	4	76	55	482	23
Methadone	1	7	4	7	10
Other class A	1	103	100	535	54
Amphetamine	10	66	123	140	50
Other class B	2	5	340	17	6
Cannabis	61	460	4	333	503

Number of persons issued with community sentences[1], fines, custodial sentences and cautions for drug dealing offences[2] relating to each type of drug 2003-07

Type of drug	Fine	Community sentence	Suspended sentence	Immediate custody	Caution
Anabolic Steroid	*	2	1	1	1
Other class C	31	223	332	352	78
Ketamine	3	4	0	0	15
Methylamphetamine	0	0	0	3	1
GHB	0	0	1	0	0

[1] Community licences include drug treatment, testing orders and drug rehabilitation referrals.
[2] Drug dealing offences comprise having possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply and supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug.
[3] Ketamine drug was made illegal in 2006.
[4] Methylamphetamine previously consulted with Amphetamine as class B drug was separately classified as class A drug on 18 January 2007.

Notes:
1. From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
2. The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has committed two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Euthanasia: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will commission research on the legal implications of euthanasia. [247972]

Mr. Straw: We have no plans to commission any such research. The legal position on euthanasia is clear. It is unlawful in this country and anyone alleged to have undertaken it would be open to a charge of murder or manslaughter.

Family Courts

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to allow second opinions in the Family Division without the permission of a judge. [248564]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently no plans to make legislative changes to allow a party to obtain a second opinion of a medical expert for use in a family case without the court's permission.

Life Imprisonment: Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1013W, on life imprisonment: prisoners release, what period each of the 304 prisoners served in custody before release. [248005]

Mr. Hanson: To provide the information requested will require manual checking of two data bases to ensure a fully accurate reply. This information should be available within two weeks. When the information the Member has requested is available, I will write to him, and a copy will placed in the Library of both Houses.

Prison Officers: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison officers are employed by the Prison Service in England and Wales. [247724]

Mr. Hanson: There are 28,608 officers currently employed in the Prison Service in England and Wales. This figure covers all officer grades across both the public and private sector prisons.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders have been given an indeterminate sentence for public protection in each year since the sentence was introduced. [247926]

Mr. Hanson: The numbers of receptions into the prison estate in England and Wales in each year since 2005 can be found in the following table.

	Indeterminate sentences for public protection
2005	420
2006	1,570
2007	1,747

Note:
Indeterminate sentence for public protection came into effect on 5 April 2005.

This information is taken from table 6.17 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2007, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following weblink:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Duncan Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average minimum tariff for indeterminate sentences for public protection is; [247927]

(2) how many prisoners serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have been released since its introduction. [247928]

Mr. Hanson: The average tariff, or specified part, for those prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection, as of 15 January 2009, is 2.97 years. This is based on a sample of 4,689 prisoners.

Since the introduction of indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection, 47 such prisoners serving such sentences have been released during the period up to 15 January 2009. 45 of these have been released by the Parole Board. two were released early by the Secretary of State on compassionate grounds.

These figures are taken from the Public Protection Unit Database (PPUD) within the National Offender Management Service. As with any large scale recording system, it is subject to possible errors arising from either data entry or processing.

Prisoner Escorts: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) pursuant to the answer to question 245155 on 12 January 2009, for what offences each of the prisoners listed as having escaped from escort since 1998 had originally been convicted; and how many of them remain unlawfully at large; [248575]

(2) pursuant to the answer to question 245155, how many offences were committed by offenders who had escaped from custody while unlawfully at large in the last 10 years; and what the offence was in each case. [249303]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the original offences committed by the 434 escapees from escort shown in the previous answer could be provided only by a detailed analysis of each prisoner record. This would incur disproportionate cost. Data available for the last four financial years, April 2004 to March 2008, show that 13 prisoners are still unlawfully at large following the 104 escort-related escapes over that period.

Data on numbers and types of offence that may have been committed by escapees over this period could be provided only by a detailed analysis of each prisoner record which would incur disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held in HM prisons. [247723]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of November 2008, there were 83,423 prisoners detained in all prison establishments in England and Wales. This information is available from the following website, which is updated monthly:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 481W, on prisoners, what assessment he has made of the consequences of the absence of a central record of prisoners maintaining innocence; and if he will make a statement. [248062]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) works with prisoners to address their offending behaviour and manage their risk of reoffending on the basis that they have been correctly convicted by the courts. As such, a central record of those who maintain their innocence following conviction would serve no useful purpose.

It is also open to any person who believes that they have been wrongly convicted to challenge the safety of their convictions through either the Court of Appeal or the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Current guidance for Prison Service staff in dealing with prisoners who deny guilt is contained in chapter 7 of (Prison Service Order) PSO 4700 which is available at:

http://pso.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/pso4700/PSO_4700_lifer_manual.doc

Prisoners: Appeals

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what records his Department keeps on the appellant status of prisoners; how many prisoners are currently appealing against their sentence; and how many of them are beyond their original or adjusted tariff. [247745]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice does not maintain a central record of the appellant status of prisoners. Therefore, determining how many serving prisoners are currently appealing against their sentence and then of those how many are beyond their original or adjusted tariff would require a manual checking of records, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisons have been closed in each year since 1997; [247718]

(2) how many prisons spaces have been lost since 1997; [247719]

(3) how many new prison spaces have become available in each year since 1997; [247720]

(4) how many new prisons opened in each year since 1997. [247721]

Mr. Hanson: Since 1997 only two prisons have closed, HMP Aldington in 1999 and HMP The Weare in 2005.

It is not possible to say how many prison places have been taken out of use since 1997 as the total number of prison places fluctuates depending on temporary schemes such as refurbishment and changes in use. Prison places may be permanently taken out of use as a result of prison closures or may be decommissioned due to the unsatisfactory state of the accommodation. Where decommissioned, and as part of our ongoing maintenance programme, many of these have been rebuilt and re-opened as new accommodation.

There are at present five wings/spurs across the estate that are not fit for purpose and are permanently out of use, with a total of around 350 places. This in is in addition to the total of 540 places taken out of use following the closure of the two prisons.

Despite the loss of these places, since 1997 we have overall increased prison capacity and improved the standard of prison accommodation available in both new and existing prisons. We have opened a total of 10 new prisons (see following table):

	Number of new prisons opened
1997	2
1998	1
1999	1
2000	1
2001	2
2002	0
2003	0
2004	1
2005	1
2006	0
2007	1
2008	0

Overall, we have delivered around 21,000 new places since 1997 through building new prisons and expansions at existing sites. The total delivered each year is set out in the following table.

	Places delivered
1997	4,716
1998	1,222
1999	1,646
2000	640
2001	920
2002	1,780
2003	1,376
2004	2,570
2005	940
2006	900
2007	1,526
2008	2,735

Prisons: Alcoholic Drinks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to reduce alcohol usage in prisons. [247710]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service strategy to reduce supply and demand for drugs includes a comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques to detect items of contraband including alcohol and prevent smuggling into establishments. There is also a treatment framework to address prisoners' alcohol-related problems, which provides a bench-mark against which prisons can formulate an appropriate local response.

In order to reduce alcohol usage, prisons deploy a robust and comprehensive range of security measures and searching techniques as part of their individual searching strategies in order to detect items of contraband and prevent their importation into establishments, as set out in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) National Security Framework (NSF).

Prisons: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to reduce drug usage in prisons. [247711]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service has in place a comprehensive drug strategy for prisons. It has three key elements:

i. reducing supply, through security measures and drug testing programmes;

ii. reducing demand, through targeted interventions for low, moderate and severe drug-misusers; and

iii. establishing effective through-care links to ensure continuity of treatment post-release in order to safeguard the gains made in custody.

The success of the drug strategy is illustrated by the reduction of drug misuse in prisons, as measured by the random mandatory drug testing (rMDT) programme. The positive rate for MDT has dropped from 24.4 per cent. in 1996-97 to 9.1 per cent. in 2007-08—a fall of 63 per cent.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans there are to increase the number of places on courses for serving prisoners dealing with drugs and alcohol. [247712]

Mr. Hanson: Prison drug treatment funding has increased year on year since 1996-97—up nearly 13-fold, with record numbers in treatment.

The Department of Health plans to increase the level of funding for the clinical elements of the integrated drug treatment system by £13.6 million in 2009-10 and a further £4 million in 2010-11.

The Government have established the Prison Drug Treatment Review Group, chaired by Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel, which will make recommendations for the continued development of prison drug treatment, informed by recommendations arising from a review of prison drug treatment funding conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in 2007.

A range of interventions are already available in prisons to support those with an alcohol problem:

clinical services—alcohol detoxification is available in all local and remand prisons;

where alcohol is part of a wider substance misuse problem, the full range of drug interventions are available;

a number of prisons run alcohol awareness courses;

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) run groups in around 67 per cent. of prisons;

some offending behaviour programmes address the underlying factors which occur in alcohol related crime;

an accredited 12-step alcohol programme is being run at HMP Bullingdon;

four accredited intensive interventions are being run at HMP Hull, Forest Bank, Glen Parva and Chelmsford based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy;

for those prisons(ers) involved in the roll-out of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) a 90 minute alcohol awareness session has been developed; and

the young persons substance misuse service for 16 to 18-year-old prisoners has a particular focus on alcohol.

The Ministry of Justice has established a Working Group to develop proposals to increase the provision of alcohol treatment available in prisons.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are on courses dealing with drug and alcohol abuse. [247713]

Mr. Hanson: The number of interventions delivered in the last full financial year (2007-08) is shown in the following table. Individual prisoners will often receive more than one of these interventions.

Intervention type	Interventions delivered 2007-08
Intensive Drug Rehabilitation Programmes (starts)[1]	11,319
CARATs (substance misuse triage assessments)	65,823
YPSMS[2]	7,381
Substance misuse detoxification programmes[3]	46,291
Maintenance prescribing programmes	12,518

[1] Programmes available in prison are split into four main categories: cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT), The 12-Step approach Therapeutic Communities (TCs), Short Duration Programme (SDP)
[2] Young People's Substance Misuse Services—a specialist service for 15 to 17-year-olds
[3] Drug and alcohol detoxification data cannot be disaggregated

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

The National Offender Management Service does not collate figures on the number of prisoners accessing treatment services specifically aimed at their alcohol misuse.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places on courses dealing with drug and alcohol abuse are available for serving prisoners in 2008-09. [247714]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

Delivery targets for 2008-09 are given in the following table.

Intervention type	Delivery commitment made by all prisons (England/Wales) 2008-09
Clinical Services—entrants to detoxification and maintenance-prescribing programmes	[1]—
CARATs—Substance-Misuse Triage Assessments (SMTAs) Conducted[2]	58,330
Drug rehabilitation programmes—entrants	10,934
Drug rehabilitation programmes completions (percentage of entrants)	65

[1] DH does not record establishments' delivery commitments, but national delivery is predicted to at least meet last year's outturn of 58,809.
[2] This excludes assessments made by Young People's Substance Misuse Services (YPSMS).
Note:
Prisoners will often receive more than one type of intervention.

Prisons have in place a range of interventions to support those with an alcohol problem.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not collate figures on the number of treatment places specifically for alcohol misuse.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to the merits of recording prison psychological interviews using the same procedures which are in place for police interviews under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. [248329]

Mr. Hanson: Consideration has not been given to the routine recording of prison psychological interviews using the same procedures which are in place for police interviews under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. The purpose of police interviews in gathering evidence for court and many psychological interviews (where the focus is on developing motivation and insight into offending behaviour and completing risk assessments) are different.

Prisons: Smuggling

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prison officers have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted of smuggling goods into prison in each year since 1997; [247715]

(2) how many prison officers have been arrested whilst on duty at prisons in the last 12 months. [247717]

Mr. Hanson: All staff in the public sector prison service are expected to meet high standards of professional and personal conduct. Allegations of staff misconduct, which are potentially criminal in nature, are referred to the police for investigation and, where appropriate, prosecution.

The particular information requested in these questions is not held centrally. However, a breakdown of the information on the numbers of staff prosecuted for bringing drugs into a prison establishment in each of the last three years is shown as follows:

Calendar year	Number of staff prosecuted
2006	6
2007	1
2008[1]	12

[1] Covers the period 1 January to 19 November 2008

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps are being taken to reduce smuggling of goods into prisons. [247716]

Mr. Hanson: Governors deploy a comprehensive range of robust searching techniques and security measures as part of their individual searching strategies in order to detect drugs, mobile phones and other contraband and prevent smuggling into establishments.

With regard to drugs and mobile phones, the Government have accepted and are working towards implementing all recommendations contained within David Blakey's report "Disrupting the supply of illicit drugs into prisons".

Termination of Employment: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many tribunal complaints have been received arising from protection from unfair dismissal afforded by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 in each year since its enactment; and if he will make a statement. [247815]

Bridget Prentice: The provisions introduced by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protect most workers from being subjected to a detriment by their employer for making a protected disclosure of information in the public interest. Employees who are protected by the provisions may make a claim for unfair dismissal if they believe they have been dismissed for making a protected disclosure. Workers who are not employees may not claim unfair dismissal; however, if their contract has been terminated by the employer because they made a protected disclosure, they may instead make a complaint that they have been subjected to a detriment.

The following table details the number of claims accepted by the employment tribunal within the unfair dismissal category that contain an element of public interest disclosure. The figures for April to December 2008 are provisional and subject to change.

Financial year	*Single claims*	*Multiple claims*[1]	*Total claims accepted*
1998-99	1	—	1
1999-2000	128	37	165
2000-01	349	66	415
2001-02	445	89	534
2002-03	577	89	666
2003-04	645	113	758
2004-05	732	140	872
2005-06	818	219	1,037
2006-07	1,044	312	1,356
2007-08	1,189	313	1,502
2008-09	1,104	222	1,326

[1] A multiple is any two or more claims which arise from the same set of circumstances. It could therefore be two or more claims made by different individuals against the one respondent, or potentially two or more claims made by the same individual against the same respondent. The figures show the total number of claims that were accepted as multiples.

Witnesses: Autism

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in how many criminal cases involving a witness with an autistic spectrum disorder a witness intermediary has been used *(a)* by the police prior to a trial or to a decision whether to proceed to trial and *(b)* by the courts in England in 2008; and in how many such cases prosecutions have been successful. [247787]

Maria Eagle: During 2008 13 referrals were made for the use of an intermediary where the witness' communication needs fell under Autistic Spectrum Disorder. However data are not routinely collected as to the stage in a case at which an intermediary was used, either by the police or at trial. Nor are data collected on the outcome of cases in which an intermediary is used.

Young Offender Institutions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what additional funding was allocated to escort providers to reduce the number of late arrivals of juveniles at young offender institutions in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of this additional funding; [247746]

(2) what penalties apply to escort providers in cases where juveniles are delivered to young offender institutions after HM Prison Inspectorate's recommended latest delivery time of 7.00pm; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of these penalties. [247748]

Mr. Hanson: The contracts are funded to enable contractors to escort juvenile prisoners to young offender institutions by their stated closure times. No additional funding has been provided. Other factors such as the time juvenile prisoners are finished in court and the distances they travel to their destinations can delay their arrival.

Under the terms of the contract, performance measures are incurred by contractors if they fail to deliver prisoners to those young offender institutions that have stated closure times by those times and they are unable to demonstrate that the reasons for the failure were outside their control. The stated closure times vary from establishment to establishment. An assessment of the effectiveness of the performance measures relating to the escort of juvenile prisoners will be undertaken in March 2009 as part of a general review of performance measures. If appropriate, consideration will be given to enhancing the performance measures within the existing contracts.

Young Offenders: Offensive Weapons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people under 18 years have been convicted of offences related to the carrying of a knife in the London Borough of Havering in each year since 1997; and what penalties were imposed on them. [247792]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of persons under 18-years-old convicted of offences related to the carrying of a knife in the Metropolitan police force area from 1997 to 2007 (latest published) and the penalties imposed on them are in the following table.

Data are not available below police force area, therefore we cannot supply data for the London borough of Havering.

Number of persons aged under 18-years-old found guilty at all courts and a sentence breakdown for offences relating to knife possession[1], Metropolitan police force area, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

		Sentence breakdown					
	Found guilty	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*
1997	148	2	76	25	43	1	1
1998	167	1	79	40	41	5	1

Number of persons aged under 18-years-old found guilty at all courts and a sentence breakdown for offences relating to knife possession[1], Metropolitan police force area, 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

		Sentence breakdown					
	Found guilty	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*
1999	178	1	77	31	58	8	3
2000	194	2	57	43	84	5	3
2001	340	2	79	78	159	13	9
2002	309	5	30	32	226	10	6
2003	246	7	9	17	203	8	2
2004	239	1	13	15	196	14	—
2005	298	—	16	10	261	10	1
2006	337	1	10	3	300	20	3
2007	321	3	7	5	292	13	1

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes;
Having an article with blade or point in public place. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.3).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises. (Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1)(5)(a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4(1)).
[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions on the grounds of rectifiable disabilities have occurred after 24 weeks' gestation in each of the last 15 years. [247738]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of abortions that are performed at 24 weeks' gestation and over by principal medical condition if performed under Section l(l)(d) of the Abortion Act 1967 are in the following tables. Abortions performed under this section are those where there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped. Medical conditions recorded under Section l(l)(d) are coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) (10th edition) published by the World Health Organisation.

Data have been provided for years 1995 onwards. Prior to 1995, diagnoses were taken from the 9th edition of the ICD and would not allow comparison due to the differences in coding.

Principal medical condition for abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act, 1967, over 24 weeks gestation residents[1], England and Wales, 1995 to 2002

Number

ICD-10 Code[2]	*Condition*	*1995[1]*	*1996[1]*	*1997[1]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
	Total ground E alone or with any other	74	103	74	73	89	94	100	114
Q00-Q89	*Congenital malformations total*	49	74	57	59	61	59	63	79
Q00-Q07	*the nervous system total*	30	43	31	26	36	35	27	42
Q00	anencephaly	3	1	1	1	2	3	2	2
Q01	encephalocele	2	3	0	1	1	0	0	1
Q02	microcephaly	5	3	1	1	5	0	2	1
Q03	hydrocephalus	13	20	15	8	5	17	4	9
Q04	other malformations of the brain	5	8	8	7	7	7	12	15
Q05	spina bifida	1	8	3	4	6	8	7	6
Q06-Q07	other	1	0	3	4	10	0	0	8
Q10-Q89	*other congenital malformations total*	19	31	26	33	25	24	36	37
Q10-Q18	the eye, ear, face and neck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q20-Q28	the cardiovascular system	2	6	7	13	10	8	15	13
Q30-Q34	the respiratory system	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	4
Q35-Q37	cleft lip and cleft palate	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Q38-Q45	other malformations of the digestive system	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	1

Principal medical condition for abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act, 1967, over 24 weeks gestation residents[1], England and Wales, 1995 to 2002

Number

ICD-10 Code[2]		*Condition*	*1995[1]*	*1996[1]*	*1997[1]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
	Q50-Q56	the genital organs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q60-Q64	the urinary system	7	6	7	7	6	8	4	4
	Q65-Q79	the musculoskeletal system	4	9	8	9	2	4	6	10
	Q80-Q85	the skin, breast integument phakomatoses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Q86-Q89	other	5	9	4	4	5	1	7	4
Q90-Q99	*Chromosomal abnormalities total*		19	20	12	10	17	20	24	25
	Q90	Down's syndrome	7	8	5	4	4	5	11	7
	Q910-Q913	Edwards' syndrome	6	4	5	1	2	5	9	6
	Q914-Q917	Patau's syndrome	1	3	1	2	4	4	1	1
	Q92-Q99	other	5	5	1	3	7	6	3	11
	Other conditions total		6	9	5	4	11	15	13	10
	P00-P04	fetus affected by maternal factors	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
	P05-P08	fetal disorders related to gestation and growth	1	5	3	1	4	8	7	2
	P35-P39	fetus affected by congenital infectious disease	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0
	P55	haemolytic disease of fetus and newborn	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	4
	P832-P833	hydrop fetalis not due to haemolytic disease	3	1	1	2	1	2	5	0
	O30	multiple gestation	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	O42	premature rupture of membranes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Z20-Z22	exposure to communicable disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Z245	need for immunisation against rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Z80-Z84	family history of heritable disorder	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3

[1] Figures for 1995, 1996 and 1997 include 12, 10 and 10 cases respectively for non residents of England and Wales. It is not possible to provide resident-only figures for disease categories for this year for reasons of confidentiality.
[2] ICD-10 codes are taken from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (Tenth Revision) published by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Principal medical condition for abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act, 1967, over 24 weeks gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2003-07

Number

ICD-10 code[1]	*Condition*		*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
	Total ground E alone or with any other[2]		136	124	137	136	135
Q00-Q89	*Congenital malformations total*		96	91	99	95	93
Q00-Q07		the nervous system total	58	35	54	60	59
	Q00	anencephaly	—	—	—	—	—
	Q01	encephalocele	—	—	—	—	—
	Q03	hydrocephalus	—	—	—	10	—
	Q04	other malformations of the brain	12	11	14	24	19
	Q05	spina bifida	16	—	—	—	—
	Q02,Q06, Q07[1]	other	17	12	22	16	19

Principal medical condition for abortions performed under Section 1(1)(d) of the Abortion Act, 1967, over 24 weeks gestation, residents, England and Wales, 2003-07

Number

ICD-10 code[1]	*Condition*			*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Q10-Q89	*other congenital malformations total*			38	56	45	35	34
	Q20-Q28		the cardiovascular system	18	23	12	13	—
	Q30-Q34		the respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—
		Q35-Q37	*cleft lip and cleft palate*		*[4]11*			
		Q38-Q45	*other malformations of the digestive system*		*[4]17*			
	Q60-Q64		the urinary system	—	—	—	—	—
	Q65-Q79		the musculoskeletal system	10	15	—	—	13
	Q10-Q18, Q35-Q56 and Q80-Q89[3]		other	—	—	15	—	—
Q90-Q99	*Chromosomal abnormalities total*			22	23	28	25	31
	Q90	Down's syndrome		—	11	—	12	—
	Q910-Q913	Edwards' syndrome		—	—	—	—	10
	Q914-Q[illegible]	Patau's syndrome		—	—	—	—	—
	Q92-Q99[3]	other		10	—	10	—	—
	Other conditions total			14	10	10	16	11
	P00-P04	fetus affected by maternal factors		—	—	—	—	—
	P05-P08	fetal disorders relating to gestation and growth		—	—	—	—	—
	P832-P833	hydrops fetalis not due to haemolytic disease		—	—	—	—	—
	Z80-Z84	family history of heritable disorder		—	—	—	—	—
		other*		—	—	—	—	—

— = suppressed value less than 10 (between 0 and 9). From 2003 onwards, totals less than 10 are suppressed for reasons of confidentiality in line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005).

[1] ICD-10 codes are taken from the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (Tenth Revision) published by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

[2] Over 24 week total includes abortions carried out under sections 1(1)(b), 1(1)(c) and 1(4).

[3] Codes listed under 'other' have cases between 0 and 9 inclusive.

[4] In line with the guidance, three year aggregate totals for 2003-2005 have been produced where possible.

* Includes cases where insufficient detail was available to allocate an ICD10 code.

Notes:

Section 1(1)(b): that the termination is necessary to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman (Ground B)

Section 1(1)(c): that the continuance of the pregnancy would involve risk to the life of the pregnant woman, greater than if the pregnancy were terminated (Ground A)

Section 1(1)(d): that there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped (Ground E)

Section 1(4): that the termination is immediately necessary to save the life (Ground F) or to prevent grave permanent injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman. (Ground G)

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were treated at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford for alcohol-related (i) injuries and (ii) illnesses in each of the last five years. [249835]

Dawn Primarolo: The only centrally available data on treatment for alcohol-related health problems report on the number of admissions to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems. An individual may account for more than one admission.

While it is possible to analyse the admissions data to determine the number of individuals admitted to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems, this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the number of admissions by primary care trust in Essex for the period covering 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Primary Care Trust Admissions 2002-07

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
South East Essex	2,032	1,339	3,370	2,097	1,387	3,484	2,652	1,790	4,443
West Essex	1,283	849	2,133	1,502	995	2,498	1,745	1,143	2,888
North East Essex	1,404	902	2,305	1,586	986	2,572	1,714	1,024	2,738
Mid Essex	1,532	992	2,523	1,898	1,319	3,217	2,250	1,442	3,692
South West Essex	1,891	1,141	3,032	1,994	1,280	3,274	2,295	1,367	3,662

	2005-06			2006-07		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
South East Essex	2,982	1,969	4,951	3,235	2,122	5,357
West Essex	1,949	1,216	3,165	2,253	1,373	3,626
North East Essex	2,227	1,401	3,629	2,365	1,477	3,843
Mid Essex	2,446	1,597	4,043	2,363	1,509	3,872
South West Essex	2,719	1,679	4,398	2,926	1,834	4,760

Notes:
Includes activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Alcohol-related admissions
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.
Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol - that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis
These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged 11 to 18 years resident in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government Office region were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each of the last five years. [247122]

Dawn Primarolo: The only centrally available data on treatment for alcohol-related health problems are the number of admissions to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems. An individual may account for more than one admission.

While it is possible to analyse the admissions data to determine the number of individuals aged 11 to 18 years admitted to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems, this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The following table gives the number of alcohol-related finished admissions for patients aged 11 to 18 by London borough and Government office region for each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are available. The figures relate to the number of admissions rather than the number of individuals.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
London borough					
City of London	0	0	0	*	0

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Barking and Dagenham	49	47	37	55	55
Barnet	37	35	56	76	88
Bexley	28	53	63	69	58
Brent	15	25	31	45	38
Bromley	35	66	65	90	76
Camden	27	33	34	46	39
Croydon	50	72	98	101	93
Ealing	54	67	42	52	75
Enfield	36	42	49	72	72
Greenwich	38	41	55	64	49
Hackney	40	39	29	56	49
Hammersmith and Fulham	26	29	35	40	50
Haringey	38	29	41	49	61
Harrow	26	19	35	36	30
Havering	43	65	50	73	82
Hillingdon	39	56	84	83	88
Hounslow	33	40	41	74	38
Islington	46	45	41	52	62
Kensington and Chelsea	15	13	12	24	15
Kingston upon Thames	39	46	41	44	36
Lambeth	39	40	53	46	52
Lewisham	37	58	48	49	60
Merton	41	45	46	49	40
Newham	38	49	44	36	69
Redbridge	39	37	42	58	70
Richmond upon Thames	29	30	28	43	39
Southwark	43	39	41	40	41
Sutton	65	52	55	52	56
Tower Hamlets	24	33	41	46	46
Waltham Forest	39	57	46	50	78
Wandsworth	46	35	39	54	41
Westminster	16	20	22	*	24
Government office region					
North East	1,211	1,161	1,357	1,553	1,608
North West	2,746	3,054	3,436	3,996	4,138
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,766	1,912	1,975	2,102	2,136
East Midlands	1,163	1,253	1,331	1,436	1,490
West Midlands	1,613	1,758	1,825	2,243	2,288
East	1,182	1,328	1,329	1,377	1,449
London	1,171	1,358	1,445	1,749	1,769
South East	1,938	2,192	2,492	2,711	2,610
South West	1,357	1,614	1,827	2,082	2,113
Unknown/no fixed abode	148	156	192	273	261
England	14,296	15,787	17,211	19,523	19,864

Notes:

1. Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
2. Small numbers: To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with '*' (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.
3. Alcohol-related admissions: The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.
4. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under 16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9).
5. Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis: These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
6. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
7. Primary diagnosis: The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
8. Secondary diagnoses: As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
9. Data Quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Cancer: Health Education

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* cancer networks are giving high priority to raising public awareness of cancer risk factors. [248446]

Ann Keen: Through the Cancer Reform Strategy's (CRS) National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative (NAEDI), the Department, in partnership with Cancer Research UK, is co-ordinating a programme to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation. NAEDI's launch

event in November 2008, was very well attended by primary care trusts and cancer networks from across the country.

As highlighted in the first annual report on the CRS, which was published in December 2008 (a copy has already been placed in the Library), the annual report for 2009 will have a greater focus on local implementation. This will include an assessment of local progress in raising public awareness of cancer risk factors.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Baron: *To ask the Secretary of State for Health* (1) what assessment he has made of the extent to which commissioners have put in place systems to ensure that patients experience good continuity of care in relation to cancer services; [248450]

(2) how many and what proportion of commissioners of cancer services have established service level agreements with local mental health services for advanced psychological support services. [248451]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts working in partnership with their strategic health authorities, local services and stakeholders to provide appropriate services for their local populations, including the commissioning of cancer services and psychological support for cancer patients.

Through the implementation of the "Cancer Reform Strategy", the Department provides a range of support to help commissioners of cancer services to ensure that their services meet their populations' needs. This includes the Cancer Commissioning Guidance, which sets out key issues and key questions that commissioners will want to take into consideration when assessing health needs, reviewing services, developing their contract service specifications and monitoring performance; and the Cancer Commissioning Toolkit, which provides an easily accessible one stop source of cancer information to provide answers to the key questions in the Cancer Commissioning Guidance.

The planned annual patient experience survey will provide us with information about how far patients are satisfied with the quality of the services being commissioned for them. Local patient experience surveys are already in operation in some cancer networks.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the representative advisory group on cancer inequalities has made towards *(a)* researching proposals, *(b)* testing inequalities and *(c)* advising on the development of a wider policy; and when and how he plans to evaluate the National Cancer Equality Initiative. [248454]

Ann Keen: As highlighted in the first annual report of the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS), "Cancer Reform Strategy: Maintaining momentum, building for the future—first annual report", published on 1 December 2008 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), we have set up the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI) to take forward a series of actions to reduce inequalities in cancer care. An advisory group has been established, co-chaired by Professor Mike Richards, the National Cancer Director, and Joanne Rule, the former Chief Executive of Cancer Backup. The membership of the group comprises representatives of all six equality strands, plus representatives on deprivation, leading academics, professionals, and departmental officials on cancer, equality and human rights, and health inequalities.

The NCEI Advisory Group has already met three times, and has taken forward work on the following:

to establish a baseline, the NCEI has undertaken a good practice survey to identify current projects aiming to reduce inequalities in cancer care. The principles behind undertaking robust projects to reduce cancer inequalities, including examples from the survey, will be issued to the national health service later this year;

writing to the chairs of the other CRS initiatives to embed equality issues across the whole programme. Letters have already been sent to the chairs of the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative and the National Cancer Intelligence Network, and future letters will be sent to the National Cancer Research Institute and the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, and other major initiatives as appropriate;

working with Macmillan Cancer Support on their Human Rights programme of work, "Know Your Rights"; and

producing a newsletter, "We Can", which was launched at the Britain Against Cancer Conference in December 2008.

The NCEI action plan for 2009-10 is currently being developed. The Cancer Programme Board has the responsibility for monitoring progress on all CRS initiatives, including the NCEI, and we are committed to publishing an annual report on progress.

Cancer: Information

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation he has made of the pilot programme for information prescriptions in relation to cancer. [248448]

Ann Keen: The piloting of information prescriptions, which included four cancer pilot sites, concluded with an evaluation report and a government response which were both published in September 2008. These have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to implement a system nationwide to enable health professionals to generate tailored information prescriptions at any point in the cancer pathway. [248457]

Ann Keen: The national cancer action team is working in partnership with the cancer networks and cancer charities (Cancer Research UK and Macmillan Cancer Support) to develop tumour-specific information pathways and an electronic delivery system that can be used by professionals to deliver tailored Information Prescriptions to patients at any point during the cancer pathway. These are currently being piloted across 39 trusts in England. It is planned that the full system, which will include tumour-specific pathways, will be available to most NHS trusts and cancer health care professionals in 2009.

In addition NHS Choices website currently makes available Information Prescriptions to patients, carers and professionals for prostate cancer and bowel cancer, with other cancers planned to follow. NHS Choices and the cancer partnership are working together to ensure consistent information delivery.

Cancer: Mental Health Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the extent to which good psychological support services are available throughout the cancer journey; [248452]

(2) what progress he has made towards introducing a national cancer survivorship initiative. [248453]

Ann Keen: The "Cancer Reform Strategy 2007" set out plans to ensure that people living with and beyond cancer receive the care and support, including psychological support, that they need to enable them to live as healthy and active a life as possible. A copy of the strategy has already been placed in the Library.

Elements of this are being taken forward through the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, which was formally launched in September 2008. It is co-chaired by Mike Richards, the Department's National Cancer Director, and Ciaran Devane, the Chief Executive of Macmillan Cancer Support. Seven workstreams have been established and have already started work.

As set out in the report "Cancer Reform Strategy—Maintaining momentum, building for the future: first annual report", a priority for the coming year is to ensure that cancer patients benefit from the expansion and development of psychological therapies. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which primary care professionals have fast access to relevant diagnostic tests for cancer; and what sanctions there are for primary care trusts which do not implement this policy. [248455]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) made clear that as a matter of best practice a good primary care trust will wish to ensure that primary care professionals have appropriate and timely direct access to diagnostic tests. Sanctions are not imposed on primary care trusts for not implementing best practice and no assessment has been made of the extent of primary care access to diagnostic tests for cancer.

Information on improvements in diagnostics is set out the first annual report of the CRS, a copy of which is available in the Library. Improving primary care access to diagnostics is a priority for improving early diagnosis of cancer and, although good progress has been made in diagnosis, the CRS Advisory Board feel that further improvements can be made in primary care access to diagnosis. In view of this, diagnostics has been added as an eighth work stream to the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative and work to develop this work stream is currently under way.

Care Quality Commission: Buildings

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much will be paid by the Care Quality Commission for the rent of its premises in 2009-10; and whether it shares its premises with any other publicly-funded body. [248560]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chair of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has informed us that the preliminary 2009-10 estates budget for CQC is expected to be £9.7 million, which consists of an operating budget of £8.4 million and £1.3 million allocated in the transitional budget for the phased migration in the first half of 2009-10 out of existing buildings surplus to the Commission's requirements.

The number of premises to be shared with other publicly funded bodies is not currently available.

Care Quality Commission: Finance

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Care Quality Commission's next annual budget will be. [248557]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Care Quality Commission, in line with all other arm's length bodies, is currently undertaking its 2009-10 annual business planning process with the Department. The Care Quality Commissions budget will be finalised and issued once this process is completed. This will be no later than the 31 March 2009.

Care Quality Commission: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time staff are to be employed by the Care Quality Commission once it becomes fully operational in April 2009. [248558]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chair of the Care Quality Commission has informed us that most positions in the Commission will be filled by staff transferring from the Healthcare Commission, Commission for Social Care Inspection and Mental Health Act Commission. The process for transferring staff is under way, and information on which transferring staff are full-time or part-time will not be available until late March 2009.

Exact staff numbers are therefore still being finalised.

Care Quality Commission: Public Consultation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision has been made for the inclusion of patients' views in the consultation being carried out by the Care Quality Commission on proposals for reviews in 2009-10. [248556]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chair of the Care Quality Commission has informed us that planned activities during the consultation period for the Commission's proposals for reviews in 2009-10 will include the following three ways of seeking views from people who use health and social care services:

the first will be a round of consultation events with stakeholders through the local involvement networks (LINks) on topics such as assessment of commissioning;

the second is a series of events aimed specifically at people who use services, their families and carers and will be able to comment on the reviews and studies programme including what they regard as their priorities. The topics for the consultation were generated via involvement activity in 'Improvement Boards'; and

the third will be to receive input to the consultation via an online forum. A panel of people have been recruited from the public and patient and user groups to give their views through an internet discussion forum.

The consultation is scheduled to end on 12 March 2009.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organisations were contacted by the Care Quality Commission to inform them of its consultation on proposals for reviews in 2009-10. [248561]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chair of the Care Quality Commission has informed us that 1,856 copies of the consultation document have been sent out to date (15 January 2009), consisting of an initial distribution of 1,410 copies, with the remainder being sent out as a result of requests. In addition to this, 24,400 letters have been sent to stakeholders informing them of the consultation and including details on how to obtain a copy on request.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of the consultation on proposals for reviews in 2009-10 being carried out by the Care Quality Commission. [248562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Chair of the Care Quality Commission has informed us that, as this consultation runs until 12 March 2009, the final details of consultation engagement activity are yet to be confirmed.

Care Quality Commission: Registration

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans are in place to ensure all health and social care providers meet the requirement of registration with the Care Quality Commission. [248559]

Mr. Bradshaw: From April 2010, all providers of regulated activities, whether from the health care or adult social care sectors, will need to register with the Care Quality Commission. In order to register and remain registered, they will be required to meet the registration requirements. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, the Care Quality Commission will have a range of independent enforcement actions that it can take to bring providers who do not meet the registration requirements into compliance.

The Department consulted on which activities should fall within the scope of registration and on the registration requirements during the summer of 2008, and will publish its response to that consultation in due course. The Commission will subsequently develop and consult on its own compliance criteria that it will use to assess adherence to the registration requirements.

Cervical Cancer: Screening

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made towards reducing the variation in cervical cancer screening coverage between primary care trusts; and what progress has been made towards increasing the uptake of screening of *(a)* poor communities and *(b)* black and ethnic minority communities. [248449]

Ann Keen: The Cancer Reform Strategy, published in December 2007, a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, said that we wished to reduce the variation of cervical screening coverage between primary care trusts. National health service (NHS) Cancer Screening Programmes have commissioned the Improvement Foundation to work with six primary care trusts with deprived communities to develop and test initiatives to improve uptake. The Improvement Foundation are expected to deliver the outcomes from their work to NHS Cancer Screening Programmes by the end of 2009, and the lessons learned will be shared with strategic health authorities and local screening programmes to develop best practice.

There is a need to ensure that health inequalities are tackled with targeted programmes that increase the uptake of screening in deprived and black and ethnic minority communities. It is be for those primary care trusts with low uptake levels for cervical screening to develop targeted programmes to tackle any identified health inequalities.

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and the university of Leeds have been working on a research project to provide guidance for communicating screening information to women from minority ethnic and low income groups throughout both the cervical and breast screening programmes. The final report is due shortly and NHS Cancer Screening Programmes will work with the university of Leeds to develop follow-up work to build on the findings.

To incentivise services to encourage higher coverage, the decision has been taken to explore having a tariff for cervical screening, along with breast and bowel screening. The Department is working closely with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes on a scoping exercise to inform this work.

Continuing Care

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received NHS continuing health care *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 50,000 of population in each primary care trust area in England in each of the first three quarters of 2008-09. [248159]

Phil Hope: The requested information is shown in the following table. Data for the third quarter of 2008-09 are not available.

Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare in total and per 50,000 population: England, 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare		Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population	
		Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2
	England	37,020	40,440	37.5	40.9
5NH	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	510	630	85.9	105.6
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	285	271	86.8	82.5
5A9	Barnet PCT	361	494	54.9	61.1

Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare in total and per 50,000 population, England: 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare		Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population	
		Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2
5H	Barnsley PCT	70	70	15.2	16.9
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	38	38	17.9	17.9
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	234	298	63.8	81.3
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	151	152	18.5	18.7
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	535	557	70.4	73.3
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	106	157	20.7	17.5
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	155	158	36.9	37.6
5PG	Birmingham East And North PCT	220	263	27.8	33.2
5LC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	46	75	15.2	24.8
5HP	Blackpool PCT	250	65	81.9	30.3
5HQ	Bolton PCT	175	219	33.3	41.5
5QN	Bournemouth And Poole PCT	416	352	65.0	55.4
5NY	Bradford And Airedale PCT	329	464	33.2	47.0
5K5	Brent PCT	366	330	64.2	58.7
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	154	146	39.0	28.4
5QH	Bristol PCT	295	266	38.9	35.5
5A7	Bromley PCT	173	239	28.7	34.6
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	375	397	38.0	39.2
5JX	Bury PCT	42	51	11.6	14.1
5J6	Calderdale PCT	170	236	45.0	58.6
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	387	489	34.0	42.9
5K7	Camden PCT	115	131	25.0	28.5
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	293	152	33.0	39.7
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	288	267	32.9	30.5
5C5	City and Hackney PCT	219	239	49.1	51.8
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	604	664	65.7	63.8
5ND	County Durham PCT	575	643	56.9	63.6
5MD	Coventry PCT	449	362	69.6	56.1
5K9	Croydon PCT	311	353	49.9	55.1
5NE	Cumbria PCT	142	142	14.2	14.2
5J9	Darlington PCT	120	133	61.5	68.2
5N7	Derby City PCT	246	268	48.1	49.8
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	816	802	59.2	63.9
5QQ	Devon PCT	909	926	68.4	63.9
5N5	Doncaster PCT	410	326	70.1	55.7
5QM	Dorset PCT	539	640	71.1	66.4
5PE	Dudley PCT	234	254	35.5	35.5
101X	Ealing PCT	85	104	13.3	28.8
5P1	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	211	263	19.3	18.6
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	150	211	25.4	28.2
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	90	109	16.2	17.5
5P7	East Sussex Downs And Weald PCT	191	241	27.9	37.7
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	406	406	28.6	28.6
5C1	Enfield PCT	259	236	44.7	46.1
5K8	Gateshead PCT	93	101	23.9	26.0
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	286	350	26.3	31.2
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	50	98	19.6	20.9
5A8	Greenwich PCT	147	144	31.9	31.3
5NM	Halton and St. Helens PCT	326	392	53.6	64.4
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	200	167	59.0	49.3
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,940	1,435	79.2	58.6
5C9	Haringey PCT	230	209	50.1	45.6
5K6	Harrow PCT	329	344	86.7	86.7
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	125	115	68.8	63.3
5P6	Hastings and Rother PCT	155	91	65.6	25.7
5A4	Havering PCT	310	295	67.6	51.3
5MX	Heart of Birmingham PCT	57	72	10.1	12.8
5CN	Hertfordshire PCT	210	233	62.5	69.5
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	130	98	36.0	28.0
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	376	351	78.3	73.1
101Y	Hounslow PCT	292	162	68.3	32.2
5NX	Hull PCT	65	93	11.6	16.7
5QE	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	253	262	92.3	95.6

Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare		Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population	
		Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2
5K8	Islington PCT	95	121	25.7	32.7
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	205	154	54.2	40.8
5A5	Kingston PCT	83	84	24.5	24.8
5N2	Kirklees PCT	299	348	38.4	44.7
5J4	Knowsley PCT	148	101	48.9	33.4
5LD	Lambeth PCT	176	188	30.6	32.7
5N3	Leeds PCT	784	784	51.8	51.8
5PC	Leicester City PCT	162	186	26.5	30.4
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	312	440	24.4	34.4
5LF	Lewisham PCT	145	140	28.4	27.4
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	239	564	17.3	40.7
5NL	Liverpool PCT	285	428	32.0	48.1
5GC	Luton PCT	125	123	34.1	33.5
5NT	Manchester PCT	219	262	22.8	27.3
5L3	Medway PCT	99	106	18.7	20.0
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	201	147	28.5	20.8
5LM	Middlesbrough PCT	148	133	51.4	46.2
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	65	69	14.1	15.0
5D7	Newcastle PCT	106	86	20.4	16.5
5C5	Newham PCT	223	224	44.0	44.2
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	339	287	23.7	20.1
5PW	North East Essex PCT	93	166	14.9	26.6
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	132	112	40.2	34.1
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	330	423	50.8	65.1
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	143	165	45.3	52.3
5M0	North Somerset PCT	129	166	32.5	41.8
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	146	161	35.8	39.5
5E1	North Tees PCT	221	228	59.0	60.8
5D6	North Tyneside PCT	170	180	41.9	44.3
5NV	North Yorkshire And York PCT	386	386	25.3	25.3
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	476	390	36.5	29.9
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	216	265	34.8	42.7
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	172	191	28.5	31.6
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	433	538	34.0	42.2
5J5	Oldham PCT	244	280	54.9	63.0
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	441	565	36.2	46.4
5PN	Peterborough PCT	66	66	22.1	22.1
5F1	Plymouth PCT	398	486	80.4	98.1
5FE	Portsmouth City PCT	222	280	56.0	70.6
5NA	Redbridge PCT	179	98	37.7	20.7
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	65	59	24.5	22.2
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	105	107	30.5	31.0
5H8	Rotherham PCT	164	146	33.6	29.9
5F5	Salford PCT	262	210	54.5	47.3
5PF	Sandwell PCT	92	152	15.3	25.3
5NJ	Sefton PCT	174	178	32.1	32.8
5N4	Sheffield PCT	414	593	39.1	56.0
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	280	280	49.4	49.5
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	149	151	36.3	36.8
5QL	Somerset PCT	254	320	25.0	31.4
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	115	166	16.6	24.0
5P1	South East Essex PCT	38	59	5.8	8.9
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	135	166	28.1	34.6
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	310	335	26.7	28.8
5E0	South Tyneside PCT	89	98	29.5	32.5
5P9	South West Essex PCT	49	95	6.2	12.0
5L1	Southampton City PCT	232	280	47.7	57.6
5LE	Southwark PCT	151	169	29.9	33.4
5F7	Stockport PCT	192	251	34.1	44.6
5P5	Stoke on Trent PCT	141	156	27.3	30.2
5PT	Suffolk PCT	190	214	16.3	18.4
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	257	262	46.9	47.8
5P9	Surrey PCT	641	634	30.2	29.9

Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare in total and per 50,000 population, England, 2008-09

Org code	Org name	Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare		Number of people receiving continuing NHS healthcare per 50,000 population	
		Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	216	258	28.8	34.4
5K3	Swindon PCT	73	87	19.3	23.0
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	195	191	43.3	42.4
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	221	234	68.6	72.6
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	154	161	55.7	58.3
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	71	98	16.7	23.1
5NR	Trafford PCT	60	60	14.3	14.3
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	190	240	28.6	36.1
5M3	Walsall PCT	272	308	54.5	61.7
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	131	86	28.8	18.9
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	94	125	16.9	22.5
5J2	Warrington PCT	113	127	29.5	33.1
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	659	889	64.3	86.8
5PV	West Essex PCT	93	89	17.9	17.1
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	283	226	26.5	21.2
5P9	West Kent PCT	225	334	17.1	25.4
5P6	West Sussex PCT	592	952	38.5	61.9
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	135	152	27.6	31.1
5LC	Westminster PCT	186	129	40.1	27.8
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	315	339	36.6	39.4
5NK	Wirral PCT	143	170	23.0	27.3
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	265	267	55.7	56.1
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	362	356	33.3	32.8

Note:
Lists extracted from the ADS2007 and reconciled to ONS mid 2006 estimates for local authorities (minus special populations) have been used for the 2008-09 figures.
Source:
Department of Health forms: Vital Signs Monitoring Return (VSMR). GP membership populations - ADS 2007 reconciled to ONS mid 2006 estimates for local authorities (minus special populations), The Information Centre.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 946, what the evidential basis is for the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health's statement that access to NHS dentistry has improved since the new contract was introduced. [248330]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of patients seen in the 24 months ending March 2006, and the number of patients seen in the 24 months ending June 2008, is available in annex 3, table D1 of "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09". Information is available at primary care trust (PCT) level. This publication has already been placed in the Library, and is available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-q1-2008-09

These data show that there are many areas across the country where access has improved. In around 30 per cent. of PCTs the number of patients accessing national health service dental services has increased since the reforms were introduced in April 2006.

However, we recognise that more remains to be done. This is why we have appointed the independent review team chaired by Professor Jimmy Steele to help us look at what steps we can take to ensure that every person, wherever he or she lives, who actively seeks to access an NHS dentist can do so.

Dental Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* Stroud constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire offer NHS treatment to (i) children and (ii) adults; how many patients are covered; and what percentage this is of the relevant population in each case. [247937]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

These figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they

account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others, or between treatments for adults and children.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in Table D1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09" report. Table D2 contains information on the numbers of patients seen as a percentage of the population. Information is provided by PCT and SHA and is available by adult and child patients seen.

This report, published on 27 November 2008, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's staff who left under *(a)* an involuntary and *(b)* a voluntary exit scheme in each year since 2005-06 received a severance package of (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [242254]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the size of severance packages given to staff leaving the Department under involuntary and voluntary exit schemes in each year since 2005-06 are presented in the following table:

£	2005-06		2006-07		200 -08	
	Involuntary	*Voluntary*	*Involuntary*	*Voluntary*	*Involuntary*	*Voluntary*
0-25,000	0	2	1	16	6	13
25,001-50,000	1	2	1	2	1	18
50,001-75,000	1	4	1	2	0	7
75,001-100,000	0	2	0	2	0	5
Over 100,000	6	15	5	9	3	25
Total	8	25	8	31	10	66

General Practitioners: Finance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP surgeries will be upgraded using the £100 million of capital spending being brought forward; and to what standards such surgeries will be upgraded. [247836]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 10 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 156W. As stated in the pre-Budget report, the key focus of investment will be to improve and extend training facilities in those areas that have historically had a lower provision of general practitioners (GPs).

It is too early to say which GP surgeries will be upgraded.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much hospital trusts in England have spent on cleaning in each financial year since 1997-98. [248442]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The Department began the collection of cleaning spend data in 2000-01 from national health service trusts, through its Estates Return Information Collection (ERIC). The information available is shown in the following table.

	Total expenditure on cleaning services (£ million)
2000-01	403
2001-02	418
2002-03	480
2003-04	493
2004-05	536
2005-06	616
2006-07	663
2007-08	720

These data have not been amended centrally and therefore its accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing NHS organisations.

The Department has a comprehensive programme of work in place to improve hospital cleanliness. Every hospital in England has already undertaken a deep clean, and the latest Healthcare Commission in-patient survey shows the NHS achieving its highest ever cleanliness rating with 93 per cent. of adults saying their ward was fairly clean or very clean. In the 2008 PEAT (Patient Environment Action Team) scores, over 98 per cent. of hospitals were rated Acceptable, Good or Excellent compared to 2000 when a third were rated as red.

A new national standard for monitoring cleanliness in health care environments is currently being developed with leading experts in the field of health care cleaning, and will be carried out under the auspices of the British Standards Institute.

Hospitals: Disinfectants

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will investigate the effectiveness of disinfectant wipes using chlorine-based formulae against *clostridium difficile*; [246246]

(2) if he will commission research into the sporicidal effectiveness of *(a)* chlorine-based formulae and *(b)* quaternary ammonium-based formulae. [246253]

Ann Keen: The Department is currently commissioning research into the effectiveness of a number of commercial formulations that claim to be sporicidal which may include both chlorine and quaternary ammonium-based formulae.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to encourage NHS trusts to use chlorine-based wipes as disinfectants in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [246254]

Ann Keen: Existing guidance recommends chlorine based disinfectants that have proven sporicidal activity. The Department will continue to stress the need to use appropriate disinfectant materials.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used in the NHS to decide whether a disinfectant product is sporicidal; and if he will make a statement. [246255]

Ann Keen: Data demonstrating a pass for the British Standard BS EN13704:2002 test "Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of sporicidal activity of chemical disinfectants used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas" are generally used to establish whether a chemical disinfectant has or does not have sporicidal activity. Purchase of disinfectant products is a matter for local national health service bodies.

Hospitals: Pigmeat

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of pork served in hospitals in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England was locally sourced in the last five years. [247562]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recently published Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative report by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for 2007-08 estimated that 99 per cent. of the pork sourced from the national health service Supply Chain's contracts was British and, within this, 47 per cent. of bacon sourced by NHS Supply Chain, was British. NHS Supply Chain calculate that approximately 75 per cent. of trusts purchase from their meat and poultry contract.

NHS trusts do not have to purchase from this central contract. They are able to award their own contracts and information about these contracts is not held centrally. To get accurate, up to date information from particular NHS regions or trusts, the hon. Member may wish to contact them direct.

Injuries: Firearms

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes there were for gunshot wounds in each NHS trust in each of the last 10 years. [246823]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is collected on the number of finished admission episodes to hospital. A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

The following table provides data on finished admission episodes for gunshot wounds by each strategic health authority area of residence. It is not possible to provide a response to this question for each national health service trust as the numbers involved are mostly very small and many of them would need to be suppressed in order to preserve confidentiality. The ICD-10 codes used to identify a gunshot wound are included in the background notes to the table.

It is important that the footnotes and clinical codes are consulted when interpreting the data in the table.

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of a gunshot wound[1] broken down by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) of residence for the last 10 years. Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Number of admissions

	SHA of residence	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	—	32	29	42	28	42	30	45	49	31		
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	—	19	16	41	26	21	26	25	14	15		
Q03	Essex SHA	—	21	26	27	29	25	27	37	32	24		
Q04	North West London SHA	—	50	43	71	52	32	29	26	18	35		
Q05	North Central London SHA	—	31	25	38	29	51	29	23	14	22		
Q06	North East London SHA	—	64	48	69	74	59	47	41	26	24		
Q07	South East London SHA	—	75	52	55	55	56	45	38	42	43		
Q08	South West London SHA	—	34	21	23	21	21	13	23	13	18		

Total number of admissions to hospital where the patient had a cause code of a gunshot wound broken down by Strategic Health Authority (SHA) of residence for the last 10 years: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

Number of admissions

	SHA of residence	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	—	22	31	35	30	47	52	49	51	41
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	—	28	22	25	39	37	28	28	35	31
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	—	41	35	46	41	47	40	29	32	15
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	—	69	64	82	83	101	67	63	54	57
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	—	42	54	51	57	63	62	52	44	53
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	—	101	108	111	115	123	110	146	96	97
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	—	108	98	116	85	97	69	74	72	58
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	—	29	23	34	31	36	37	37	23	27
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	—	27	24	34	19	32	27	32	23	26
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	—	26	33	32	30	47	28	14	20	24
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	—	39	44	40	28	42	27	25	39	31
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	—	40	39	40	43	48	31	39	27	34
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	—	22	27	36	26	24	29	31	24	25
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	—	28	14	14	11	29	14	13	23	15
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	—	50	55	40	62	61	48	42	38	24
Q24	Trent SHA	—	52	46	74	83	69	46	66	63	54
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	—	19	22	25	16	28	28	27	25	32
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	—	23	14	25	29	28	29	37	28	30
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	—	67	73	76	89	86	62	59	27	50
Q28	West Midlands South SHA	—	38	44	37	28	21	24	26	22	18
Q30	North East SHA	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	278	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	138	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	96	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	172	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	103	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	209	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q39	South West SHA	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
U	England – Not otherwise specified	3	15	7	13	8	8	0	—	—	2
	Other/Unknown/ Foreign SHAs	36	21	26	18	25	39	18	23	13	38
	Total	1,315	1,233	1,163	1,370	1,287	1,420	1,122	1,170	987	994

Rates per 100,000 of population

	SHA of Residence	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	—	1.41	1.29	1.89	1.05	1.93	1.38	2.09	2.28	1.46
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	—	1.16	0.98	2.53	1.61	1.31	1.63	1.58	0.89	0.96
Q03	Essex SHA	—	1.27	1.58	1.65	1.78	1.55	1.68	2.32	2.02	1.52
Q04	North West London SHA	—	2.73	2.38	3.95	2.89	1.79	1.65	1.51	1.06	2.07
Q05	North Central London SHA	—	2.50	2.04	3.12	2.39	4.25	2.45	1.97	1.21	1.91

Rates per 100,000 of population

	SHA of Residence	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
Q06	North East London SHA	—	4.17	3.13	4.50	4.83	3.88	3.13	2.76	1.77	1.65
Q07	South East London SHA	—	4.91	3.43	3.64	3.63	3.69	2.99	2.55	2.85	2.94
Q08	South West London SHA	—	2.57	1.60	1.76	1.61	1.61	1.01	1.80	1.03	1.43
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	—	1.58	2.23	2.51	2.15	3.37	3.72	3.49	3.61	2.89
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	—	2.43	1.91	2.18	3.40	3.23	2.44	2.44	3.04	2.69
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	—	2.44	2.10	2.79	2.50	2.89	2.47	1.80	1.99	0.93
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	—	3.22	3.02	3.90	3.96	4.85	3.23	3.04	2.60	2.75
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	—	2.16	2.79	2.65	2.98	3.31	3.26	2.74	2.31	2.79
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	—	3.97	4.26	4.39	4.57	4.89	4.37	5.80	3.81	3.85
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	—	4.59	4.17	4.93	3.62	4.12	2.93	3.14	3.04	2.44
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	—	1.35	1.08	1.61	1.47	1.71	1.77	1.78	1.11	1.31
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	—	1.48	1.33	1.89	1.06	1.80	1.52	1.81	1.31	1.49
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	—	1.60	2.05	2.00	1.89	2.97	1.78	0.90	1.29	1.55
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	—	1.50	1.70	1.55	1.09	1.64	1.06	0.98	1.55	1.24
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	—	1.79	1.76	1.82	1.97	2.21	1.43	1.81	1.26	1.60
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	—	1.35	1.67	2.25	1.63	1.52	1.85	2.00	1.56	1.63
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	—	2.31	1.16	1.16	0.92	2.43	1.18	1.11	1.96	1.29
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	—	3.88	4.30	3.14	4.88	4.82	3.79	3.31	2.98	1.88
Q24	Trent SHA	—	1.92	1.71	2.77	3.13	2.62	1.76	2.53	2.42	2.08
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	—	1.18	1.38	1.58	1.02	1.80	1.81	1.75	1.63	2.10
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	—	1.52	0.93	1.67	1.94	1.88	1.95	2.50	1.89	2.04
Q27	Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	—	2.93	3.20	3.34	3.92	3.80	2.73	2.59	1.18	2.19
Q28	West Midlands South SHA	—	2.45	2.85	2.40	1.83	1.38	1.38	1.72	1.46	1.20
Q30	North East SHA	2.78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q31	North West SHA	4.06	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	2.68	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q33	East Midlands SHA	2.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q34	West Midlands SHA	3.20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q35	East of England SHA	1.84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q36	London SHA	2.78	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q37	South East Coast SHA	1.72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Q38	South Central SHA	1.43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	SHA of Residence	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	1997-98
											Rates per 100,000 of population
Q39	South West SHA	1.54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
* *Cause Code - Gunshot Wounds*
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. HES has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to gunshot wounds
Gunshot wounds:
W32.- Handgun discharge
W33.- Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34.- Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72- Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73- Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74- Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93- Assault by handgun discharge
X94- Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95- Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22.- Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23.- Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24- Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0 Legal intervention involving firearm discharge
Y36.4 War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare.
Data quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
PCT/SHA data quality
PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all
finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of GP practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 16 of the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10, what mechanisms there are to ensure that primary care trusts spend an additional £330 million on maternity services over the specified period. [248443]

Ann Keen: The £330 million announced for Maternity Matters covers three years, 2008-09 to 2010-11 and is being included within primary care trust (PCT) revenue allocations.

Increases in the maternity services tariff in 2008-09 and planned for 2009-10 will increase the flow of funds for each episode of maternity care. PCTs will also be developing and investing in local plans to deliver the improvements set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* consultants and *(d)* auxiliary staff have been victims of violence in (i) accident and emergency areas in Broomfield Hospital and (ii) all hospitals in the Mid-Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust area in each of the last five years. [249836]

Ann Keen: Since 2004-05, the number of physical assaults against staff reported by NHS bodies has been collected annually by the National Health Service Security Management Service. This information is contained in tables showing the number of physical assaults on NHS staff reported in England for each of the years 2004-05 to 2007-08. These tables have already been placed in the Library.

Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the cost of the change of name of the Mid-Essex Primary Care Trust to NHS Mid-Essex. [249837]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) have the freedom to choose whether or not they make the transition to the new identity, 'NHS Local' (rather than 'Local' PCT). In order to keep costs to a minimum, we advise that the transition is made when it is practically and economically feasible to do so through planned replacement programmes. This may be by, for example, exhausting existing supplies of stationery and updating property signage.

You may wish to enquire with your local PCT for further information.

NHS Manpower: Oncologists

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* oncologists and *(b)* trainee oncologists specialising in urology there are in each region; [248837]

(2) how many *(a)* oncologists and *(b)* trainee oncologists specialising in breast cancer there are in each region. [248838]

Ann Keen: The number of oncologists and trainee oncologists in each region is shown in the following tables. The NHS Workforce Census does not identify the area of specialty for oncologists or trainee oncologists.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical staff, showing Consultants and Doctors in Training and Equivalents[1] within the Urology specialty and the six main cancer specialties by Strategic Health Authority area, England as at 30 September 2007

Number (headcount)

		Clinical oncology			Clinical radiology		
			Of which:			Of which:	
		All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents	All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents
	England	1,055	506	464	3,150	2,086	1,009
Q30	North East	48	26	17	152	101	51
Q31	North West	115	62	46	456	311	141
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	114	57	51	344	216	127
Q33	East Midlands	89	44	40	228	146	79
Q34	West Midlands	84	45	30	296	215	7
Q35	East of England	137	68	59	273	186	80
Q36	London	209	82	120	683	401	273
Q37	South East Coast	46	31	13	153	19	20
Q38	South Central	94	48	38	253	164	81
Q39	South West	119	43	50	312	217	80
	Special Health Authorities and other statutory bodies	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number (headcount)

		Haematology			Histopathology		
			Of which:			Of which:	
		All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents	All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents
	England	1,360	680	52	637	1,111	502
Q30	North East	58	31	24	93	64	29
Q31	North West	129	68	48	24	152	86
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	115	52	54	181	117	63
Q33	East Midlands	86	42	38	114	76	38
Q34	West Midlands	129	63	58	164	122	0
Q35	East of England	93	56	25	149	112	32
Q36	London	377	169	184	321	22	106
Q37	South East Coast	54	39	12	109	71	36
Q38	South Central	92	4	33	129	83	43
Q39	South West	125	70	41	133	102	29
	Special Health Authorities and other statutory bodies	102	46	5	—	—	—

Number (headcount)

		Medical oncology			Palliative medicine		
			Of which:			Of which:	
		All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents	All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents
	England	614	225	326	444	202	176
Q30	North East	25	10	15	27	18	6
Q31	North West	97	47	43	54	21	26
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	69	26	38	90	22	54
Q33	East Midlands	14	1	8	42	19	17
Q34	West Midlands	43	13	24	2	16	22

Number (headcount)

		Medical oncology			Palliative medicine		
			Of which:			Of which:	
		All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents	All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents
Q35	East of England	50	26	14	45	19	15
Q36	London	205	62	125	52	36	12
Q37	South East Coast	31	12	19	18	10	3
Q38	South Central	34	1	19	46	20	17
Q39	South West	46	17	21	28	21	4
	Special Health Authorities and other statutory bodies	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number (headcount)

		Urology		
			Of which:	
		All staff	Consultant	Doctors in training and equivalents
	England	148	528	740
Q30	North East	74	30	31
Q31	North West	199	69	98
Q32	Yorkshire and The Humber	14	57	80
Q33	East Midlands	94	32	50
Q34	West Midlands	143	63	67
Q35	East of England	163	58	75
Q36	London	303	9	174
Q37	South East Coast	139	46	69
Q38	South Central	87	33	43
Q39	South West	109	41	53
	Special Health Authorities and other statutory bodies	—	—	—

[1] Doctors in Training and Equivalents is the term used to refer to people in the registrar group, foundation year 2 staff, senior house officers, house officers and foundation year 1 staff and other staff in equivalent grades who are not in an educationally approved post.
— = denotes zero
Notes:
Data Quality:
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census

NHS: Cleaning Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health according to the most recent ERIC returns made to his Department, how much each NHS trust spent on cleaning services; what their audit score against national specifications for cleanliness for the NHS was; and how many whole time equivalent cleaning staff they employed. [248460]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Estimates Returns Information Collection returns are not amended centrally and therefore their accuracy is the responsibility of the contributing national health service organisations.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 3 on page 33 of the NHS Operating Framework for 2009-10, whether all surpluses will be spent by the organisations that generated them. [248444]

Mr. Bradshaw: The surpluses generated are held locally and it will be for individual organisations to decide in conjunction with the direction and priorities agreed with their strategic health authorities and the priorities set out in the Operating Framework, how to invest their surplus for the benefit of their patients.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed by the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in the most recent year for which figures are available. [248436]

Ann Keen: The total number of staff employed within the national health service in England and Gloucestershire as of 30 September 2007 is given in the following table.

All NHS staff within Gloucestershire[1]

Numbers (headcount) and full-time equivalents

As at 30 September 2007	*headcount*	*fte*
England	1,331,109	1,089,436
Of which:		
Gloucestershire[1]	13,375	10,234

[1] Gloucestershire consists of the following organisations: South Gloucestershire PCT, Gloucestershire PCT and Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Notes:

Data Quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

The Information Centre for health and social care. Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Primary Care Trusts: Telephone Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts use *(a)* 084 telephone numbers and *(b)* other telephone numbers that charge more than the local rate for calls from the public. [247616]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost. However the Department remains clear that it does not expect patients to pay more than the equivalent cost of a local rate call when contacting the local national health service.

We recently launched a public consultation on the intention to prohibit the use of 084 numbers in the NHS. This will run from 16 December 2008 until 31 March 2009.

Smoking

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults aged 35 and over were admitted to hospital with diseases caused by smoking in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [247615]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the exact format requested. Data for 1996-97 are not available for both England and North Yorkshire. Figures for North Yorkshire County are not collected. Data for England and for North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trusts (PCT) are available for 2006-07.

Detailed Information on specific diseases that can be caused by smoking for England 2006-07 is available from the Statistics on Smoking: England, 2008. This information can be found in table 5.2 on page 83. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Figures are available and provided on the number of admissions in National Health Service hospitals for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those admissions that are attributable to smoking.

The following table shows the number of admissions for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of various diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those admissions that can be attributed to smoking. Figures have been provided for 2006-07 in England and for North Yorkshire and York PCT. It is acknowledged that not all of the observed admissions included in the table will be attributable to smoking as there are other contributory factors to these diseases. Therefore the relative risks of these diseases for current and ex-smokers, compared to non-smokers have been used to estimate smoking-attributable admissions.

NHS[1] *hospital admissions*[2] *for primary diagnosis*[3] *of diseases that can be caused by smoking and those attributable to smoking , 2006-07*

Number

	Observed admissions[4]	*Smoking attributable admissions*[5]
England	1,431,831	445,100
North Yorkshire and York PCT	22,053	6,800

Notes:

[1] The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals).

[2] A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[3] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[4] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data. Observed admissions only includes those where gender was recorded

[5] Estimated attributable number, rounded to the nearest 100

Social Services: Children

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inspections the Healthcare Commission and its predecessor inspectorates has undertaken into Haringey Council in relation to services that relate to children since 2000. [245967]

Ann Keen: The Healthcare Commission, like its predecessor the Commission for Health Improvement, has no specific locus for inspections of local government. On occasion, the Healthcare Commission will work with other regulators. The Commission took part in a Joint Area Review of Haringey in 2006 and in the recent urgent review of safeguarding in Haringey. The Commission for Health Improvement was involved in the follow up to the Victoria Climbié report in 2003.

Strokes: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England in establishing in each health authority or trust a stroke care pathway; and if he will make a statement. [248529]

Ann Keen: The National Stroke Strategy mandates the establishment of stroke care networks. All proposed networks originally proposed have now been established and are expected to be fully functional by spring 2009. Details of the networks can be found on the Stroke Improvement programme website at:

www.improvement.nhs.uk/stroke

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is available in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* the East of England for patients who have undergone a stroke to receive support with communication skills; and if he will make a statement. [248530]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. However, the new national stroke strategy recognises that people who have had a stroke, including those with aphasia and other communication difficulties, will have specific support needs. The services which primary care trusts (PCTs) and local authorities provide for those people will depend on local needs and priorities. The strategy also makes clear that those with aphasia and related conditions should be involved in the planning of the support services they require.

In addition to the funding that has gone to PCTs, central funding over three years will support implementation of the new national strategy, including £45 million to local authorities to help them develop or accelerate their existing provision of long-term support to those who live with the effects of a stroke. We expect that PCTs and local authorities will use the funding available to meet these needs in line with local needs and priorities.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Computers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many laptops his Department owns which are *(a)* encrypted and *(b)* unencrypted. [246676]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's computers are provided to it under arrangements with its IT service provider.

The Department has replaced all laptop computers that had not been installed with encryption software with encrypted laptops as part of its review of data security. Currently all departmental laptops that are used to store and process personal data have to be encrypted, and employees are prohibited from using non-encrypted laptop computers.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 398W, on departmental data protection, where the data centres are located; who manages them; and what steps have been taken to test their physical security. [246938]

Jonathan Shaw: The Data Centres used by the Department are located in North East England and are managed, on behalf of the Department, by EDS. Regular tests and formal audits are undertaken by both EDS and the Department to ensure that physical security barriers, controls and processes associated with their operation and effectiveness conform to agreed requirements. The tests are in line with Information Systems Security Standards (ISSS).

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 were made to his Department since 2005; how many requests were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if he will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by his Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by his Department in connection with each appeal; and if he will make a statement. [244830]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 507W.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's *(a)* current and *(b)* planned IT programmes and projects are; and what the planned (i) budget and (ii) timescale of each is. [240265]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

The projects and programmes currently on the Department's portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business;

The investment costs of the project/programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included.

For all programmes or projects the costs and reported completion dates relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element.

Project	*Purpose*	*(i) Latest forecast (£million)*	*(ii) Planned timescale*
Employment and Support Allowance	The project delivers the systems, processes and training to support delivery of the new Employment and Support Allowance.	295	October 2008

Project	Purpose	(i) Latest forecast (£million)	(ii) Planned timescale
Customer Information System[1]	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. personal details computer system and departmental central index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments.	88	December 2008
Central Payments System	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	170	December 2011
Pensions Transformation Programme	The programme will transform The Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	590	2010-11
Method of Payment Reform Programmes	Method of Payment Reform Programmes will develop modern, electronic, secure and efficient methods of payments for customers who require payment by an alternate means other than direct payment to bank accounts.	48	March 2011
Lone Parent Obligations	Lone Parents Obligations is part of welfare reform with the aim of increasing the lone parent employment rate. Currently lone parents are not required to seek employment until their youngest child reaches 16. Under new proposals to be phased in (starting with youngest child aged 12), lone parents will no longer be entitled to income support solely for being a lone parent if their youngest child is above seven. In the last year before entitlement ceases, work focused interviews will take place to encourage lone parents to take up training opportunities, leading to employment.	21	February 2011
Disability and Carers Service Change Programme	This is an over-arching transformation programme for disabled people and their carers designed to move PDCS towards a business transformation that addresses people, partners, process, and puts the customer experience at the heart of their transformation plans, in line with the wider departmental strategy	69	March 2010
Pension Reform Delivery Programme	To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK Pension System long term.	118	December 2010
Document Repository Service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.	10	March 2009
Data Centre Strategy[2]	The project is addressing the ongoing continued threat of business service continuity with a replacement strategy for Washington Data Centre.	33	April 2011
Jobseekers Regime and Flexible New Deal	This programme will replace and streamline the current New Deal programmes and will concentrate on tackling the challenging problems of those who remain unemployed despite a strong economy and historically low unemployment. The programme will include provision of obtaining skills and mandatory work experience for customers	19	October 2010
DWP Change Programme	This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision. It includes projects to bring in continuous improvement using lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business improvement projects to allow greater access to information.	246	March 2011
Provider Referrals and Payment Project	Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable payment transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers.	18	June 2010
Local Services Integration programme[3]	To provide local services with an IT solution that supports the end to end process making administration more efficient.	15	December 2011

Project	Purpose	(i) Latest forecast (£million)	(ii) Planned timescale
Government connect[6]	To roll out a secure data network connecting Government and local authorities, including secure file transfer, e-mail and web-browser capability	33	March 2011

[1] Customer Information System (CIS)—The original expected completion date was March 2008 based on the date of the planned migration of Legacy Benefit System data. However, to minimise the risks associated with this approach a phased implementation was planned. The dates for this phased approach are:
Start of Migration—March 2008
Completion of phased rollout—June 2008
Final Technical Release—October 2008
Project closure—December 2008
[5] Data Centre Strategy—The planned timescale for completion is April 2011. This was reported previously in error as end of 2010. The project plans are not delayed.
[7] Local Services Integration Programme—this project is relatively new to the Department's Portfolio and is in addition to those published in the NAO Report on DWP IT programmes November 2008.
[6] Government Connect—also a recent addition to the Department's portfolio since the NAO report. £33 million forecast spend are the total costs of this cross government programme—funded by DWP (£8 million), Communities and Local Government (£19 million) and Department for Children and Families (£6 million).

Note:
The Child Support Agency, Operational Improvement Programme was included in the NAO list of projects but is excluded here. On 1 November 2008, responsibility for the Child Support Agency was transferred from the Secretary of State for DWP to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. The Commission is a Crown non-departmental public body (NDPB) which operates at arms length from the Department.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what delays against original IT project timetables have been experienced on IT projects being undertaken by his Department and its agencies; and what *(a)* the reasons for delay and *(b)* corrective action taken were in each case. [240816]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

The projects and programmes currently on the Department's portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business.

The investment costs of the project/programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included.

For all programmes or projects the costs and dates reported relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element.

The following table identifies, in respect of those projects for which there has been a delay on early business case estimates, the programme/project purpose, original planned completion date, latest expected completion date and the reason for any delay.

Overall, the Department has a very strong track record in delivering major and complex change involving IT, of which the successful introduction of the employment and support allowance is the most recent example. But, we are always seeking to improve our project management and governance processes. In particular:

Strict project governance arrangements apply to all significant changes on time scales, scope, cost and tolerances;

At each key stage, projects are reviewed to establish whether they continue to align with business needs;

Requests for scope change are reviewed and often revised to offset the need for other investment through new or separate projects; and

Original assumptions about scope, time scales and costs at strategic outline business case stage are inevitably open to later variation after proof of concept/initial design. At the critical design stage this informs more robust planning of time scales, costs and deliverables which are re-baselined as necessary.

At each stage of this process project plans are subject to rigorous scrutiny to ensure that they continue to fit with Departmental strategy and continue to deliver value for money.

Project	Purpose	Original planned completion date	Expected completion date	Reason for delay
Customer Information System[1]	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. Personal Details Computer System, and Departmental Central Index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments.	September 2007	December 2008	During the design stage of the project, the original timetable was impacted by emerging IT complexities relating to the interfaces between the new system and existing systems in the Department. Additionally decisions were taken to phase data migration from the old to new system to reduce risk and safeguard data integrity.
Central Payments System[2]	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	October 2008	December 2011	During project design, the need for developing additional system interfaces was identified. This was followed by a re-planning exercise and a significant increase in project scope. Contract for delivery was then renegotiated to realign the roles of the Department and the contractor. New contractual arrangements and project deliverables are now in place.

Project	Purpose	Original planned completion date	Expected completion date	Reason for delay
Pensions Transformation Project	The programme will transform THE Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	March 2007	2010-11	Significant changes in phased implementation plans were approved to reduce the risk to operational delivery and customer service. The project is now running over a much longer time period to support implementation.
Method of Payment Reform Programmes	Method of Payment Reform Programmes will develop modern, electronic, secure and efficient methods of payments for customers who require payment by an alternate means other than direct payment to bank accounts.	July 2008	March 2011	The end-date for the Programme was always planned to be March 2011. An earlier date of July 2008 was reported mistakenly in a previous response. This was the delivery date of an early phase of this programme.
Fraud Referrals and Interventions Management System[1]	Fraud Referrals and Interventions Management System aims to deliver modernised Programme Protection activity.	October 2007	June 2008	Additional system releases were approved while this project was still in implementation planning phase. This resulted in some months delay to expected completion time scales.
Disability and Carers Service Change Programme	This is an overarching Transformation Programme for disabled people and their carers designed to move PDCS towards a business transformation that addresses people, partners, process, and puts the customer experience at the heart of their transformation plans, in line with the wider Departmental Strategy.	2009	March 2010	This project scope was extended to include the child and intervention strategy leading to longer delivery time scales to accommodate additional requirements.
Pension Reform Delivery Programme	To co-ordinate; manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK Pension System long term.	April 2010	December 2010	Implementation is planned from April 2010, consistent with early estimate of time scales. The date of December 2010 refers to the project closure date.
Document Repository Service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.	November 2008	March 2009	March 2009 reflects the project closure date. Implementation of a pilot started in November 2008 as planned.
Provider Referrals and Payments Project	Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable payment transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers.	April 2009	June 2010	An increased scope was agreed to incorporate policy developments for the flexible approach to New Deal programmes. This will deliver a more comprehensive and efficient IT provider payment support tool.

[1] Customer Information System (CIS)—The original expected completion date was March 2008 based on the date of the planned migration of Legacy Benefit System data. However, to minimise the risks associated with this approach a phased implementation was planned. The dates for this phased approach are:
Start of Migration—March 2008
Completion of phased rollout—June 2008
Final Technical Release—October 2008
Project closure—December 2008
[2] Central Payments System (CPS)—this project was originally part of the Payment Modernisation Programme but later assumed project status in its own right.
[3] Fraud Referrals and Interventions Management System—This project has now completed and is closed. The NAO report included, in error, additional expected completion dates in 2009. These were for further system releases and not part of the original system development.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which IT projects in his Department are running above the original agreed budget; what the cause of budget overrun is in each case; what corrective action has been taken in each case; and if he will make a statement. [240819]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent. We have included in the following table:

The projects and programmes currently on the Department's Portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business.

The investment costs of the project/programme. Costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial benefits they generate.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual have not been included.

For all programmes or projects the costs and dates reported relate to the total project or programme and not only the IT element.

The following table identifies, in respect of those projects for which there has been a cost overrun on early business case estimates, the programme/project purpose and reason for budget overrun.

Overall, the Department has a very strong track record in delivering major and complex change involving IT, of which the successful introduction of the employment and support allowance is the most recent example. But we are always seeking to improve our project management and governance processes. In particular:-

Strict project governance arrangements apply to all significant changes on cost, scope and tolerances;

At each key stage, projects are reviewed to establish whether they continue to align with business needs; and

Original cost estimates are regularly reviewed at each stage in the project lifecycle;

It should also be noted that the scope of projects can change as they pass through the project lifecycle and as plans and costs become more robust. At each stage of this process they are subject to rigorous scrutiny to ensure that they continue to fit with departmental strategy and continue to deliver value for money.

Project	*Purpose*	*Originally agreed Budget (i) (£ million)*	*Current forecast costs (ii) (£ million)*	*Reason for Budget overrun (iii)*
Customer information system	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. personal details computer system and departmental central index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by Other Government Departments.	40	88	The original timetable was impacted by IT complexities identified at the design stage. Later decisions were taken to phase the migration of data from the old to the new system to reduce risk and safeguard data integrity. The additional work to resolve the IT issues and manage the project to revised timescales resulted in additional costs.
Central payments system	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/pension payments, reduce risks of service failure, increased speed and efficiency, and information for improved customer service and reduced fraud and error.	90	178	Significant extension of project scope was approved to include the development of interfaces with additional benefit systems. This resulted in re-planned delivery dates and an increase in system development and project costs.
Pensions transformation project	The programme will transform The Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	429	908	Significant changes in phased implementation plans were put in place to a reduce risks to operational delivery and customer service. The project is now running over a much longer time period to support implementation which has led to the increase in costs.
Method of Payment Reform programme	Method of Payment Reform programmes will develop modern, electronic, secure and efficient methods of payments for customers who require payment by an alternate means other than direct payment to bank accounts.		48	The cost of the programme was revised as its scope developed. Overall the project costs have risen with an increase in IT costs although costs of converting to new business processes have decreased.
Lone parents obligations	Lone parents obligations is part of welfare reform and intends increasing the lone parent employment rate. Currently lone parents are not required to seek employment until their youngest child reaches 16. Under new proposals to be phased in starting with youngest child aged 12), lone parents will no longer be entitled to income support solely for being a lone parent if their youngest child is above seven. In the last year before entitlement ceases, work focused interviews will take place to encourage lone parents to take up training opportunities, leading to employment.	9	21	Following consultation with external stakeholders and the Social Security Advisory Committee, a series of design and timing changes have resulted in increased costs. The changes are aimed at making transition as easy as possible for lone parents.
Fraud referrals and intervention management system	Fraud referrals and intervention management system aims to deliver modernised programme protection activity.	12	30	From September 2007, the programme board approved three additional system releases while the project was still in delivery mode. While this added to the system functionality, it also increased total project costs. The project completed in 2008.
Document repository service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.	6	10	Higher test environment costs and revised costs to put in place more robust audit/ management functionality than originally planned resulted in an increase in total project costs.

Project	Purpose	Originally agreed Budget (i) (£ million)	Current forecast costs (ii) (£ million)	Reason for Budget overrun (iii)
Jobseekers regime and flexible new deal[1]	This programme will replace and streamline the current new deal programmes and will concentrate on tackling the challenging problems of those who remain unemployed despite a strong economy and historically low unemployment. The programme will include provision of obtaining skills and mandatory work experience for customers	17	19	Implementation plans were changed slightly to incorporate a phased approach to delivery. This has resulted in a small increase in overall project costs.
DWP Change programme	This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision. It includes projects to bring in continuous improvement using lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business improvement projects to allow greater access to information.	245	246	Forecast costs have increased marginally but will be contained within the original budget and managed through the normal governance process.
Provider referrals and payment project	Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers.	17	18	Costs have increased marginally and are within tolerance. These will be monitored through normal governance processes.

[1] Jobseekers regime and flexible new deal project—the project budget excludes any costs associated with staff exits which may result from this project. A higher figure representing total business case costs was reported to NAO (this includes estimated exit costs). Exit costs associated with projects are held centrally and are regularly are reviewed as they are often avoidable.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons the number of his Department's IT staff have fallen every year since 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [246675]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's successful drive to increase the efficiency of its IT organisation has enabled it to reduce the number of its IT staff. This has been achieved through investment in improving staff skills, including the adoption of industry standard qualifications and best practice.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's critical IT systems are. [246677]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has 149 major application systems currently supported by its existing hosting contract(s) which are listed. All of these systems are considered critical to the Department's business.

App (Short Name)	App (Long Name/Description)
ATAS	Audit Trail Analysis Service (amended from System)
ATS	Appeals Tracking System
BAS	Benefits Adviser Service
BAMS	Benefits Agency Medical Service
BCS	Business Controls System
BDBSH	Birkenhead Dis Ben Syst HealthcheK (A)
BEL	Benefit Enquiry Line
BIS	Business Information system
BOC	Better off Calculator
BCS	Business Controls System
CA (GB)	Carer's Allowance formally known as ICA
CA (NI)	Carer's Allowance (Northern Ireland)
CA Online	Carer's Allowance Online
CBS	Call Booking System
CFS	Contract and Funding System
ChIS	Childcare Information System
CIB	Corporate Integration Backbone Services
CIS	Customer Information System
CMS	Customer Management System
CMS MIS	Customer Management System Management Information System
CMS NISSA	Customer management System Northern Ireland Social Security Agency
Comet	Comet
Complaints	Complaints Database
CPP	Common Payments Package
CRU	Compensation Recovery Unit
CRU NI	Compensation Recovery Unit NI
CRU On-line	Compensation Recovery Unit Online
CRU Ies	Compensation Recovery Unit Interactive e services
CSA Accounting	
CSR Accounting (BMS/R)	CSR Accounting (BMS/R)
CSA DMS (GB)	CSA Debt Management System
CSCS	Child Support Computer System
CSCS Training	
CSIMS	Customer Services Incident Management System
CSR (CS2)	CSR (Child Support 2)
DACS (NI)	Disability and Carers System (Northern Ireland)
DBS	Departmental Briefing System
DCDB FD	DCDB Fraud Database
DIS	Departmental Interface Server Replacement
DiSC	Disability Services Client System
DLA (NI)	Disabled Living Allowance Northern Ireland
DLACS/AACS	Disability Living Allowance /Attendance Allowance
DM	Debt Management (including DM MI)
DMAS	Decision Making and Appeal System
DMS	Debt Management System
DRS	Document Repository System
ECFPOD	Electronic Claim Form Pensions Overseas Direct
EDON/DVI	Direct Vacancy Input
ELES	ESA LegaSuite Enquiry Service
Elise	Elise
Empower	
eNIRS JC+	eNIRS JC+
ERM	Employer Relationship Management

App (Short Name)	*App (Long Name/Description)*
ESA CAM	Employment Support Allowance Customer Account Management
ESA VME	Employment Support Allowance VME
ETD	Electronic Transfer of Data
FAMIS (PP)	FAMIS Payroll & Personnel
FAMIS ACC	FAMIS Accounting
FAMIS Ingres	FAMIS Ingres
FAO	Financial Accounting Operations
FAS	Financial Assistance Scheme
FRAIMS	Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System
FSD	Flexible Service Delivery
GMS	Generalised Matching Service
HBMS	Housing Benefits Matching System
HBSDC	Housing Benefit Subsidy Data Collection
HQ Library	HQ Library
IeS Core	IeS Core
IICS	Industrial Injuries Computer System
IJB	Internet Job Bank
INCAP	See PSCS/Incap
ISCS	Income Support Computer System
ISCS(NI)	Income Support Computer System Northern Ireland
ITG online	Integration Services Online (Provides new applications with online access to legacy applications which includes the following components: Integration Services Online for PFS, CMS, NTC, CSR and BMSR
ITG batch	Integration Services Batch (Provides new applications with batch access to legacy applications which includes the following components: Integration Services Batch for PFS, CMS, NTC, CSR, BMSR, WFI(P), RM, PXP, CRU, DLA, KFEM, LPS, LMS, NOL, OB, PCFE, GIREC, SIS, VA, DEBTMAN, FNCS, HBSDC, IPBA, IBDEG, NAFM).
IWB	In Work Benefit
JABS	Jobseeker Attendance Band System
JBA	Job Broking Access
Job Broking Access for Partners	
Job Warehouse	Job Warehouse
JSAPS	Jobseeker's Allowance Payments System
Jobpoint KMS	Jobpoint Kiosk Management Service
JSMA	Jobcentre Search and Match app
LFR	Land Charge Registry
LMDW	Labour Market Data Warehouse
LMS	Labour Market System
LMSMI	Labour Market System Management Information
LO/DO/RO/ HO/ OA	Office Automation
LPS	Local Payment System
MD	Mesothelioma Database
MFSR (Opstrat Access)	Multi Function Servers providing access to opstrat applications which includes the following component
	MFSR DFP Web Logic Application
MFSR (Printer Access)	Multi Function Servers providing access to opstrat printing.
MOP	Method of Payment Application - CCMS
MI Challenge Database	MI Challenge Database
MPS	Course booking system
MyDWP	MyDWP
NDDP	New Deal for Disabled People database - client management system AKA NDDP CMS
New Deal for Disabled People	Duplicate of NDDP
NDEMI	New Deal Management Information

App (Short Name)	*App (Long Name/Description)*
NIRS1	National Insurance Recording Systems 1
NOL	Notification Online
NOL/DLA	Notification Online / Disabled Living Allowance
NTC	New Tax Credits
OAS	Overseas Awarding System
OLE	OLE and Trusted Channel
OVBII	Overseas Branch Industrial Injuries
PACS	Payment Accounting Computer System
PCC	Parliamentary Correspondence
PCFE	Pension Credit Front End
PDS2000	Pensions Direct System 2000
PDES	Pension Direct Enquiry Service
PENS	Penserver
PFS	PFS
PFS MIS	Pensions Forecasting System MIS
PIB	PTP Integration Backbone Application
PSCS (NI)	
PSCS/Incap	Pensions Services and Incapacity Benefit Computer System
PSOD	Pension Sharing on Divorce
PTP	Pension Transformation Programme (excluding the PxP PTP component, but including the following components: PTP Siebel Application, eDocs, PTP Bank Wizard, PTP QAS Application)
PxP	Push and Pull
RATS	Reassessment Appeals Tracking System
Respond	Respond Pensions and ICE
RDAS	Referral and Data Analysis Service
RMS	Resource Management System
Rightfax	Rightfax
RKMS	Remote Kiosk Management System
RTPF	Real Time Pensions Forecasting
RPTC	Retirement Pension teleclaims for Northern Ireland
Self Serv Portal	Self Service Portal
SFAS	Social Fund Accounting System
SFCS	Social Fund Computer System
SFCS (NI)	
SIDDB	Sustainability in DWP Database
SPVAFS	Service Personnel and Veterans Agency Futures Suite
Spyts	Special Payments (including CSA)
SSP	Small Systems Platform (Assaults and Accidents Database(AAD), Disability and Discrimination Database (DDB), Electronic Filing System (EFS), Official Correspondence Database (OCD), Under 18 Support Team (UEST)
STARS	Storage and Retrieval System
TeS	Tactical E-Services
TPJB	Third Party Job Bank
VME PROXY	VME PROXY
WFES	Winter Fuels Enquiry Service
WFPS	Winter Fuel Payment System
WFTC	Working Families Tax Credit/Disabled Person's Tax Credit
WFTC/DPTC	
WFTC/DPTC (NI)	
Workstep	Workstep
WPCS (WPKI)	
WPCS (WPKI)	War Pensions Computer System

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to become an intelligent customer in IT procurement. [246680]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department re-aligned its IT contracts to enable it to procure industry standard services at market prices. This has also allowed the Department to substantially reduce its IT spend at the same time as improving the quality of the services procured.

Operational processes have been aligned with industry standard principles, ITIL (IT Information Library) or CMMi (Capability Maturity Model Integration) to maximise the efficiency of procurement and management of IT service delivery. The professional skills of the Department's IT staff have been improved to match.

Supplier governance has been strengthened through regular meetings at a strategic and operational level to review contract performance based on contractually agreed management information requirements. Where necessary, service improvement steps are agreed as part of continuous service improvement plans.

The Department also undertakes supplier intelligence analysis to identify market trends and monitor the financial stability of its key suppliers.

These steps have delivered significant improvements in IT contract delivery; the Department's future plans build on the realigned contracts to make further progress in service improvement and value for money for its IT investment.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the performance of his Department's IT contracts with *(a)* BT and *(b)* EDS are measured; and how the relevant performance data are validated. [246681]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's contracts with BT and EDS specify service levels and key performance indicators which measure critical and important performance parameters in line with industry best practice. They are measured and formally reported on 12 times a year at regular intervals. Following the same reporting cycle the accuracy of the reports generated by BT and EDS is formally validated and assured by the Department. These processes are underpinned by periodic audits.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department issues on *(a)* the methodology, *(b)* project planning and *(c)* risk and issue management of its IT projects. [246683]

Jonathan Shaw: The standard project management methodology used within the Department is PRINCE2. Supporting this, the Department has developed a project delivery tool, known as the DWP Change Lifecycle. The Lifecycle, representing best practice and setting standards, is mandated for use by all projects within the Department.

The DWP lifecycle also includes guidance on project planning, with a dedicated section relating to Planning and Estimating.

Further planning and investment guidance is available to projects, such as HM Treasury's "Green Book", and the Department's Investment Costing guidance.

The Risk Management Framework formally describes the Department's approach to managing risks and issues. It incorporates internal and external good practice, from both the public and private sectors and is fully consistent with guidance set out in the HMT "Orange Book"—Management of Risk: Principles and Concept.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department maintains a register of its software licences. [246685]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has contracted its service providers to create and maintain software licence registers for the software it uses.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's IT projects are required to be supported by *(a)* a project initiation document, *(b)* a documented business case and *(c)* a cost-benefit analysis. [246686]

Jonathan Shaw: All projects are required to document the key information needed to correctly direct and manage them, including an overview of how the project will be carried out and its governance arrangements. All the Department's major projects detail this within the Project Initiation Document, however, for smaller scale projects with low costs or short timescales this information would be contained within the Business Case.

All the Department's projects and programmes delivering change, including IT enabled projects, are required to produce a business case, which includes a cost-benefit analysis.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 399W, on departmental ICT, if he will place in the Library a copy of the risk management framework referred to in the answer. [246933]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not in the interests of the Department's security arrangements for details to be published of the approaches that are taken in identifying and responding to particular risks to IT systems. Such information, if published, could assist those intent on undermining the Department's IT security, and could prejudice the Department's efforts to protect information, including personal data in respect of individuals. This is not in the public interest. I refer the hon. Member to the answer in the official record for 17 December 2008, *Official Report* column 826W, which sets out the Department's approach to data and information security.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 400W, on departmental ICT, what priorities for improvement were identified as a result of the annual user satisfaction surveys in each of the last 10 years. [246934]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has conducted an IT and Telephony survey of staff in each of the last three years. The overall assessment of the Department's IT and telephony systems was positive in all three years. In each year scope for improvement of some IT applications and telephony were identified. Improvement programmes and better IT user guidance have been implemented as a result.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 400W, on departmental ICT, if he will place a copy in the Library of his Department's business contingency plans referred to in the Answer. [246935]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not in the interests of the Department or its stakeholders to publish the detailed plans that apply to the protection of its business processes. To do so could enable individuals to deduce how successful the Department is in protecting its systems and identifying vulnerabilities, which might assist such persons in testing the effectiveness of the Department's controls, or otherwise causing mischievous disruption to the Department. This would not be in the public interest.

However the Department's Business Continuity policy and guidance documents are publicly available on the UK Resilience website:

http://www.ukresilience.gov.uk/preparedness/ccact/good_practice/methodology.aspx

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 401W, on departmental ICT, which are the projects which have IT input. [246936]

Jonathan Shaw: All 19 of the major business change programmes are supported by IT. They are listed in appendix 1 of the report of the National Audit Office to the Work and Pensions Select Committee (Department for Work and Pensions: Information Technology Programmes), a copy of which is in the Library. They include programmes which will improve the deployment of financial information, for example the Central Payment System, and programmes to deliver efficient and effective services to the Department's customers, for example the Department for Work and Pensions Change Programme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what IT systems are used to process each of his Department's benefits. [249684]

Jonathan Shaw: The IT Systems used to process the Department's benefits are shown in the following table associated with the benefits they support.

IT System	*Benefit or Allowance Supported*
Carers Allowance Computer System	Carers Allowance
Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance Computer System	Attendance Allowance Disability Living Allowance
Income Support Computer System (ISCS)	Income Support Pension Credit Cold Weather Payments
Industrial Injuries Computer System (IICS)	Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit and Associated Benefits and Allowances[1] Industrial Death Benefit Pneumoconiosis, Bysinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases Benefit
Jobseekers Allowance Payment System (JSAPS)	Employment and Support Allowance Jobseekers Allowance Training Allowance Job Grant
Pensions Strategic Computer System (PSCS)	Bereavement Benefit Incapacity Benefit Maternity Allowance Severe Disablement Allowance (residual) State Pension Widows Benefit (residual) Job Grants for Incapacity benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance customers
Social Fund Computer System	Social Fund Crisis Payments Social Fund Budgetary Loans Sure Start Maternity Grants
Winter Fuels Payment System	Winter Fuel Payments

[1] Industrial Injuries Computer System also administers the payment of associated allowances which are Constant Attendance Allowance, Exceptional Severe Disablement Allowance, Unemployability Supplement, Reduced Earnings Allowance and Retirement Allowance

In addition where a customer is already in receipt of benefit Winter Fuel Payments are also administered on the appropriate core benefit system.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246962]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on advisers since 1997 is not held centrally and to compile a list, as requested, would incur disproportionate cost. The Department does make public appointments to public and ad-hoc bodies, and appoints special advisers. Since 2003, the Government have published an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers and the number in each pay band. Updated information will be published in the usual way.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247351]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows.

(a) (i) DWP and its executive agencies; Jobcentre Plus, Pension, Disability and Carers Service and Rent Service currently publish 129 primary 0845 numbers for calls from customers accessing their services. DWP do not have any 0844 numbers.

	Number
Jobcentre Plus	
7 x 0845 Initial Inquiry Lines e.g. Jobseeker Direct, Employer Direct, National Insurance etc.	7
81 x 0845 Inquiry Lines to the 81 Benefit Delivery Centres	81
20 x 0845 Social Fund	20
6 x 0845 Maternity Allowance	6
2 x 0845 Bereavement	2
PDCS Pensions	
9 x 0845 e.g. Tracing Helpline and E-claim helpline, Forecasting	9
PDCS Disability and Carers	
1 x 0845 Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance	1
Debt Management	
2 x 0845 RFE, Recovery	2
Rent Service	
1 x 0845 number Central Processing Unit, Washington	1

(ii) DWP do not have any revenue sharing numbers. We ceased any revenue sharing in December 2007. This had been worth circa £500,000 per annum. We do not have an exact breakdown for this and it would be difficult to obtain these figures.

Following detailed consideration of the advantages and disadvantages, DWP have no plans to introduce 03 numbers at this time. This decision will be kept under review.

(b) Service providers under contract to the Department—this information is not readily available and initial inquiries have shown that the cost of obtaining it would be disproportionate.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on disability living allowance for children in each year from 1990 to 2008; how much he estimates will be spent in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [248618]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance expenditure for children

	Nominal	£ million 2008-09 prices
1992-93	231	347
1993-94	325	474
1994-95	365	524
1995-96	437	611
1996-97	443	597
1997-98	489	641
1998-99	529	679
1999-2000	566	713
2000-01	607	755
2001-02	674	819
2002-03	762	898
2003-04	794	909

Disability living allowance expenditure for children

	Nominal	£ million 2008-09 prices
2004-05	842	939
2005-06	924	1,009
2006-07	973	1,035
2007-08	1,013	1,046
2008-09[1]	1,058	1,058
2009-10[1]	1,117	1,101

[1] Forecast.

Note:
Definition of children is those under the age of 16.

Source:
DWP accounting and statistical data and autumn 2008 forecasts.

Electronic Data Systems

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether EDS will achieve capability maturity model integration levels 4 and 5 in the IT services they provide to his Department. [248937]

Jonathan Shaw: EDS have provided the following statement:

"EDS achieved Capability Mature Model Integration (CMMI) level 3 in all its UK DWP Applications Services in May 2007. It intends to continue to improve the quality of the services it provides to the Department and plans to move from CMMI level 3 to CMMI level 5 in the UK by the end of 2010".

Employment: Discrimination

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether, following the European Court of Justice rulings in the case of Coleman *v.* Attridge Law, he plans to make it an offence to harass or discriminate against anyone who is associated with someone with long-term medical conditions such as HIV. [248854]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* We are considering carefully the implications of the European Court of Justice's judgment in the case of Coleman *v.* Attridge Law for the prohibition of direct discrimination and harassment in domestic disability discrimination.

Employment: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the average income for a lone parent with a single child in their first year back into work if they worked on average *(a)* 16 hours, *(b)* 18 hours, *(c)* 20 hours, *(d)* 22 hours, *(e)* 24 hours, *(f)* 26 hours, *(g)* 28 hours, *(h)* 30 hours, *(i)* 32 hours, *(j)* 34 hours, *(k)* 36 hours, *(l)* 38 hours and *(m)* 40 hours, per week in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [244144]

Kitty Ussher: Information on the average income for a lone parent with a single child in their first year back into work is not available.

The available information is shown in the following table.

Median net weekly income for lone parents with a single child in work by hours of work, 2006-07

Number of hours worked per week	Median net weekly income (£)
Under 20	248
20-30	282
30-40	324
40 or over	403
All	312

Notes:
1. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households.
2. Data for 2006-07 were collected between April 2006 and March 2007.
3. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
4. The FRS does not collect details on when the respondent started work. So the estimates include lone parents who may always have been in work and never on benefits.
5. The categories for the number of hours worked have been grouped together owing to small sample sizes.
6. Weekly income is based on self-assessment and therefore may be subject to misreporting.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Industrial Health and Safety: Cancer

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to *(a)* assist cancer survivors to return to work and *(b)* raise awareness that cancer is covered by disability discrimination legislation. [247216]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus offers a number of employment programmes which help disabled people gain and retain employment. These programmes are open to people with a range of disabilities, including those with cancer-related conditions.

For example, customers in receipt of incapacity benefits or employment and support allowance can access Pathways to Work, which offers a series of interviews with a specialist personal adviser, a condition management programme and the possibility of financial incentives when the customer returns to work. Other customers who have a disability or health condition that affects them in the workplace can receive information and support from the disability employment adviser. The disability employment adviser can also provide access to a number of specialist programmes that can help them move into paid work, including, Access to Work, Work Preparation, Residential Training and Workstep, a programme of supported employment.

Amendments were made to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, which included provisions to extend protection from disability discrimination for people with cancer effectively from the point of diagnosis. Following these changes, the Department ran a Disability Discrimination Act awareness-raising campaign called "Adjusting for Better Business" from December 2005 to May 2006. The Department continues to provide information about the Disability Discrimination Act, including the inclusion of people with cancer within the Disability Discrimination Act definition of disability, on both the DWP and the Directgov websites.

Through the "Employ ability" programme, we are also engaging with employers to improve their understanding of disability and their attitudes towards employing disabled people.

The key aims of "Employ ability" include challenging negative assumptions about the skills and talent that disabled workers, and those with long-term health conditions, have to offer, building the confidence of employers in recruiting and retaining disabled workers. "Employ ability" activity is aimed at small-to medium-sized employers and is being rolled out to Scotland, Wales and seven English regions between 24 March 2008 and 27 February 2009.

Pensioners: Housing

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pensioner households were *(a)* owner-occupiers, *(b)* social renters and *(c)* private renters in 2007-08. [248833]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

It is estimated from the 2007 Labour Force Survey that there were a total of 5,959,000 pensioner households in the period April to June 2007.

Pensioner households are defined as those households where the household reference person has reached pensionable age. Currently, females reach pensionable age at 60; males reach pensionable age at 65.

The estimated number of pensioner households by tenure in 2007 was as follows:

Estimated number of pensioner households by tenure, England, April to June 2007

Housing tenure	Number of pensioner households	Percentage
Owner-occupiers	4,346,000	72.9
Social renters	1,312,000	22.0
Private renters	297,000	5.0
Not known	4,000	0.1
Total	5,959,000	100.0

Source:
Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Department's estimate is of the number and proportion of adults *(a)* who were out of work and in poverty and *(b)* who had moved out of poverty as a result of moving into work in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [242186]

Mr. McNulty: The information on the number and proportion of adults who were out of work and in poverty is shown in the following table.

Number and risk of working age adults living in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income who are not in work, before and after housing costs, United Kingdom

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)
2002-03	3.4	37	4.3	47
2003-04	3.3	37	4.3	47

Number and risk of working age adults living in households with incomes less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income who are not in work, before and after housing costs, United Kingdom

	Before housing costs		After housing costs	
	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)	Number (million)	Proportion (percentage)
2004-05	3.2	35	4.0	44
2005-06	3.4	37	4.3	47
2006-07	3.5	38	4.5	48

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey and Low Income Dynamics data, sourced from the British Household Panel Survey.
2. Small changes should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using OECD equalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 and proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage.
7. Adults have been classified as workless if they are unemployed or economically inactive.
8. Adults have been classified as being of working age if they are 64 or below for men or 59 or below for women.
Source:
Households Below Average Income

Information on the number and proportion of adults who had moved out of poverty as a result of moving into work is not available. Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue with many different factors acting at the same time in moving individuals into or out of poverty.

The risk of a working age adult who is working being in a low income household in the United Kingdom in 2006-07 is much lower at 7 per cent. (before housing costs) and 11 per cent. (after housing costs), than for workless working age adults, where the equivalent proportions are 38 per cent. (before housing costs) and 48 per cent. (after housing costs) as shown in the aforementioned table. Data from the Low Income Dynamics publication illustrate that an increase in the number of workers or full time workers in a household greatly increases the likelihood of that household moving out of low income. The Low Income Dynamics paper is available in the Library.

Poverty: Children

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children are living in relative poverty in a working age single parent family; and how many of them are living in a family in which the adult is *(a)* working full-time, *(b)* working part-time and *(c)* not working, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [244146]

(2) how many children are living in relative poverty in a household with more than one working age parent, and how many of them are living in a household in which *(a)* at least one of the adults is (i) working full-time and (ii) working part-time and *(b)* neither parent is working, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [244147]

Kitty Ussher: Available information is shown in the following tables.

Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London, with no further tabulations available broken down by Government office region or by any lower geography.

Table 1: Numbers of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent of median in 2006-07 in a working age lone parent family overall and by whether the adult is working full-time, working part-time or not working, United Kingdom

Work status of working age lone parent family	Number of children
All children in working age lone parent families	1,200,000
of which:	
Parent is working full-time	—
Parent is working part-time	200,000
Parent is not working	900,000

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Table 2: Numbers of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent of median in 2006-07 in a family with more than one working age parent by whether at least one of the adults is working full-time, at least one of the adults is working part-time or neither parent is working, United Kingdom

Work status of family with more than one working age parent	Number of children
All children in families with more than one working age parent	1,700,000
of which:	
At least one parent is working full-time	1,000,000
At least one parent is working part-time	500,000
Neither parent working	400,000

"—" Indicates less than 50,000 children.
Notes:
1. Figures in table 1 may not sum due to rounding.
2. In table 2, the categories 'At least one parent is working full-time' and 'At least one parent is working part-time' are not disjoint, as families where one parent is working full-time and the other working part-time will be included in both categories. Figures therefore do not sum.
3. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
4. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
5. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures is single financial years.
6. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
7. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equalisation factors.
8. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand children.
9. Children have been counted as being in workless families where they are in lone parent families where the parent does not work or in couple families where both parents do not work.
10. Families have been included if the parent is of working age (i.e. 64 or below for men, 59 or below for women) for lone parent families and both parents are of working age for couple families.
11. An adult has been classified as working full-time if they are working for 31 or more hours per week, in line with the Households Below Average Income publication.
Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Social Fund

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much and what proportion of the Social Fund has been awarded in 2008-09 to date; how much has been awarded in *(a)* crisis loans, *(b)* budgeting loans and *(c)* community care grants; and if he will make a statement. [246906]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Discretionary Social Fund expenditure for Great Britain for April to December 2008

Award type	*Gross expenditure (£ million)*	*Proportion of relevant 2008-09 budget (percentage)*
Crisis loans	117.1	n/a
Budgeting loans	363.3	n/a
Total loans	480.4	[1]89
Community care grants	107.0	[2]76

n/a = Not applicable
[1] Of gross loans budget
[2] Of community care grant budget
Notes:
1. Gross expenditure includes awards made after review.
2. There are not separate gross budgets for crisis loans and budgeting loans, but rather a combined gross loans budget for both.
3. It is expected that an in-year allocation to the gross loans budget will be made before the end of the financial year. The proportion given above is based on the initial gross loans budget.
4. As well as the gross loans budget and the community care grant budget, there is a contingency reserve to support any Jobcentre Plus budget area that comes under pressure from unforeseen expenditure. This has not been included in the above proportions.
Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

State Retirement Pensions

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will consider the merits of allowing national insurance contributions of one half of a married couple over and above what is required to trigger entitlement to a full state pension to be transferred to a spouse if they have a shortfall in their own contributions. [247888]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* This is not a practicable proposal.

The need for such a transfer mechanism will be very limited under the reformed state pension scheme because the majority of both men and women in the UK—over 90 per cent. for those reaching state pension age in 2025—will have entitlement to a full basic state pension and are therefore less likely than under the current scheme to need to access their spouses' contributions.

It is not necessarily the case that qualifying years of contributions beyond those required for entitlement to a full basic pension are in effect surplus and not generating pension entitlement. State second pension will accrue on paid Class 1 contributions. Therefore on transferring the contributions from one spouse to another, the spouse donating the contributions would also be forfeiting any state second pension entitlement derived from them.

Overall the complexity for both customers and staff inherent to such an arrangement could not be justified given the relatively low numbers it could potentially benefit in the future under the reformed scheme.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's revised deadline is to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [248504]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's intention is to achieve ratification of this important Convention at the earliest practicable opportunity, and our ambition is to do so in the spring of 2009.

Village Agent Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to assess the effectiveness of the Village Agent Scheme operating in Gloucestershire; and whether he plans to extend it, with particular reference to the greater take-up of benefits amongst older people. [248162]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Village Agents Scheme was part of our LinkAge Plus pilot project which tested a comprehensive approach for accessible joined-up services for older people; one which puts older people at the centre of policy making and service delivery.

The current LinkAge Plus pilots ended their funded activity in October 2008 and each pilot is current finalising their individual pilot evaluations. All eight pilots have in the main sustained their activity, have secured funding and mainstreamed their activity to continue to deliver improved services for older people.

The national evaluation of the project includes an objective of building "an evidence base that supports the economic, as well as the social case for fully joined up/holistic services for older people" and will report in the spring of 2009.

In addition local evaluators have been appointed by each pilot to test the success of the projects in local terms. Their evidence will contribute to the national evaluation.

We are already sharing lessons learned from the pilot activity in order to encourage continuing sustainable joined-up services for older people (for example through the new Social Care Reform Grant). This scheme has attracted considerable interest from other authorities who are currently in contact with Gloucestershire county council with a view to developing similar approaches.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the level of winter heating allowance which would need to be paid in order to prevent all excess winter deaths attributable to lack of heating. [245818]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Although excess winter mortality is associated with low temperatures, conditions directly relating to cold, such as hypothermia, are not the main cause of excess winter mortality.

Mortality in the winter months is consistently higher than at other times of the year. Although influenza and health complications arising from cold weather influence the number of excess winter deaths, lack of heating is only one contributing factor that may affect a particular case. It is not therefore possible to estimate a level of winter fuel payment that would prevent all excess winter deaths attributable to lack of heating.

Winter fuel payments are one part of the overall Government programme to support vulnerable groups in winter. The programme also includes the annual seasonal influenza vaccination programme which offers

free flu jabs to people most at risk from potentially life-threatening complications of flu; cold weather payments for vulnerable groups, which have been increased to £25 for 2008-09, and the Warm Front Scheme which focuses on improving home energy efficiency. Warm Front funding has been increased to over £950 million for the three-year period to March 2011 (with £50 million of the existing allocation being spent a year sooner than planned, ensuring that up to 30,000 vulnerable households will have less time to wait for their heating or insulation measures to be fitted).

Winter Fuel Payments: Cancer

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what financial support his Department makes available to cancer patients to assist them in meeting the cost of their heating bills; and if he will make a statement. [247752]

Jonathan Shaw: People with cancer may receive Winter Fuel Payments if they are aged 60 or over, giving older people reassurance that they can afford to heat their homes in winter. Cold Weather Payments are intended to help vulnerable groups on low incomes with the extra heating costs which result from periods of very cold weather that last, or are forecast to last, for seven days. For winter 2008-09 Cold Weather Payments have increased in value from £8.50 to £25. They are paid to people awarded Pension Credit, Income Support, income-related Employment and Support Allowance or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance when the temperature criteria are met for their area. Those receiving Income Support, income based Jobseeker's Allowance or income-related Employment and Support Allowance during the assessment phase must also be receiving a pensioner or disability premium, or have a child who is disabled or under the age of five.

People with cancer may also receive financial support through the disability benefits and the disability premiums in the income-related benefits in recognition of the extra costs, including heating, which they may have. These are spread over a 52 week period and can have a substantial annual value, up to around £8,000.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities not included in waves 1 to 6 of Building Schools for the Future have been allocated a flat rate of £8 million each for 14 to 19 and special educational needs spending. [247198]

Jim Knight: All 76 local authorities not included in waves 1 to 6 of Building Schools for the Future have been allocated £8 million of Targeted Capital Funding for 14 to 19 or special educational needs. They are:

Barnet
Bath and North East Somerset
Bexley
Bolton
Bracknell Forest
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Bromley
Buckinghamshire
Bury
Calderdale
Cheshire
Cornwall
Croydon
Cumbria
Darlington
Devon
Dorset
Dudley
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Enfield
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Harrow
Havering
Herefordshire
Hounslow
Isle of Wight
Kingston upon Thames
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Medway
Merton
Milton Keynes
Norfolk
North Somerset
North Tyneside
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Reading
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
Rotherham
Rutland
Sefton
Shropshire
Slough
South Gloucestershire
Southampton
Southend-on-Sea
Staffordshire
Stockport
Surrey
Sutton
Swindon
Thurrock
Torbay
Trafford
Wakefield

Walsall
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
West Sussex
Wigan
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wokingham
Worcestershire
York

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the integration of school and onsite catering into the Building Schools for the Future programme. [247514]

Jim Knight: Our guidance, which applies to all secondary schools including those in BSF, "Building Bulletin 98, The Briefing Framework for Secondary School Projects", sets out recommendations for a range of options to suit the catering arrangements of the school. All of which is designed to promote healthy eating to children and young people. We do not require that every school have a kitchen on site big enough for all purposes, because it is up to local authorities and schools to decide how best to meet the Government's nutritional standards. The Department's "Inspirational Design for Kitchen Spaces" provides technical guidance.

Integration of existing onsite catering services into BSF facilities management contracts is not mandatory. It will vary within each local authority according to the current contractual arrangements for the services and the proposed future model of delivery for BSF. We would of course expect local authorities to make decisions following consultation with schools and based on value for money.

Children: Missing Persons

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have gone missing from local authority care homes in each local authority in the last five years. [247673]

Beverley Hughes: The following table provides information on the number of children in care in each local authority that have gone missing from children's homes in England for the years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008.

Children looked after who went missing from care during the years ending 31 March, by local authority[1,2,3,4,5], years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008 - coverage: England

	All children looked after who went missing from care					*Children looked after who went missing from children's homes only*				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
England	730	860	980	0	280	260	290	0	0	0
North East	30	20	20	0	20	20	10	0	0	0
Darlington	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	0	—	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	—	5	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	20	10	15	0	20	15	10	0	0	0
North West	100	120	140	0	70	50	70	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen	0	—	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	20	30	30	0	20	20	20	0	0	0
Bury	—	5	—	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Cheshire	—	—	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halton	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	10	10	—	0	—	5	—	0	0	0
Liverpool	10	20	15	0	—	—	10	0	0	0
Manchester	10	5	10	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Oldham	—	—	5	0	10	—	—	0	0	0
Rochdale	—	0	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Salford	—	0	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Sefton	—	10	5	0	—	—	10	0	0	0
St Helens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stockport	—	10	15	0	10	—	5	0	0	0

Children looked after who went missing from care during the years ending 31 March, by local authority1,2,3,4,5, years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008—coverage: England

	All children looked after who went missing from care					Children looked after who went missing from children's homes only				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Tameside	—	15	10	0	—	—	5	0	0	0
Trafford	—	—	15	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Warrington	—	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	—	—	5	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Wirral	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	70	60	70	0	20	20	20	0	0	0
Barnsley	15	—	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Bradford	10	15	10	0	—	—	5	0	0	0
Calderdale	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	—	10	—	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	5	5	0	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Kirklees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	30	5	15	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	0	—	5	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	5	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Rotherham	—	—	25	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	—	—	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield		—	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
York	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	40	30	20	0	10	—	10	0	0	0
Derby	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicester	5	—	—	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Leicestershire	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	20	10	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Nottingham	—	—	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	60	100	110	0	30	10	40	0	0	0
Birmingham	20	30	5	0	10	5	15	0	0	0
Coventry	5	10	10	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Dudley	10	10	10	0	5	—	10	0	0	0
Herefordshire	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	—	—	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	—	5	10	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	5	25	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walsall	5	10	20	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Warwickshire	10	10	10	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	5	5	10	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Worcestershire	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
East of England	60	60	60	0	20	10	10	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	5	5	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	—	5	5	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Essex	20	15	30	0	10	—	5	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	—	—	5	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Luton	5	5	5	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Norfolk	—	10	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	10	5	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea	0	5	5	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	10	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0

Children looked after who went missing from care during the years ending 31 March, by local authority1,2,3,4,5, years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008 - coverage: England

	All children looked after who went missing from care					Children looked after who went missing from children's homes only				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
London	250	270	310	0	20	100	80	0	0	0
Inner London	120	110	120	0	20	50	40	0	0	0
Camden	20	5	—	0	0	10	5	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	10	5	5	0	0	5	—	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	5	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Haringey	25	25	15	0	—	10	10	0	0	0
Islington	10	10	—	0	—	10	—	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	—	20	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	15	10	25	0	5	—	—	0	0	0
Lewisham	15	20	—	0	—	5	5	0	0	0
Newham	—	—	15	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	5	10	10	0	—	5	—	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	—	—	5	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Wandsworth	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Westminster	5	10	15	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Outer London	120	160	190	0	50	50	50	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	10	15	25	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Barnet	10	10	5	0	—	5	—	0	0	0
Bexley	0	5	5	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Brent	20	20	30	0	—	10	5	0	0	0
Bromley	—	—	0	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Croydon	0	—	10	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Ealing	20	10	—	0	—	10	—	0	0	0
Enfield	—	10	15	0	5	—	—	0	0	0
Greenwich	10	—	10	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Harrow	5	—	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Havering	—	5	10	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Hillingdon	15	25	25	0	10	—	10	0	0	0
Hounslow	10	15	10	0	10	—	5	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	5	—	5	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Redbridge	10	20	10	0	—	5	10	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	—	10	15	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	—	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South East	80	130	100	0	30	30	40	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest	—	—	5	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	10	5	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire	0	0	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	—	5	0	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Hampshire	10	15	50	0	—	10	5	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Kent	20	50	35	0	15	10	25	0	0	0
Medway Towns	5	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	—	5	5	0	—	0	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Reading	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	5	5	20	0	5	—	—	0	0	0
Surrey	5	20	35	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
West Berkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	0	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	—	5	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
South West	40	70	70	0	10	10	10	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	—	—	0	—	0	0	0	0	0

Children looked after who went missing from care during the years ending 31 March, by local authority (L2.5.4.5, years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008 - coverage: England

	All children looked after who went missing from care					*Children looked after who went missing from children's homes only*				
	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Bournemouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol, City of	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	—	10	15	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Devon	—	20	15	0	0	—	5	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	10	5	5	0	—	—	—	0	0	0
Plymouth	10	5	15	0	0	—	—	0	0	0
Poole	—	—	—	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Somerset	0	—	—	0	—	0	—	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swindon	0	—	—	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Torbay	—	10	10	0	0	—	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	—	5	—	0	0	—	—	0	0	0

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.
[3] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] Children who went missing on more than one occasion during the year have been counted once.
[5] Includes looked after children who were missing from care for a period of more than 24 hours.

Children: Safety

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in implementing the child road safety strategy produced in 2007. [247381]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Progress in implementing the child road safety strategy includes disseminating the Kerbcraft child pedestrian training scheme and the rolling out of the Bikeability cycle training scheme and of the School Travel Plan target. A new long-term child advertising campaign—Tales of the Road—has been launched and in order to develop a strategic framework for road safety education, the Department for Transport has commissioned a project, which is now well advanced, to review existing materials and then produce a comprehensive set of road safety educational material.

This and other work to improve the road safety of children and young people is being carried forward under the umbrella of DCSF's PSA target to improve children's and young peoples' safety. The Department for Transport is working closely with DCSF on this.

Children's Centres: Pre-school Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he expects all Sure Start children's centres with early years provision to be led by someone with Early Years Professional Status. [247269]

Beverley Hughes: Currently we expect all Sure Start Children's Centres offering early years provision to employ a qualified teacher upon designation. It is our aim that all Sure Start Children's Centres offering early years provision also employ someone with Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) to plan and lead delivery of the integrated child care and early learning provision by 2010, taking advantage, therefore, of the expertise of both types of graduates. These requirements are set out in the "Sure Start Children's Centre Planning and Performance Management Guidance", published in November 2006. It is up to children's centres how they meet this aim.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England who were entitled to education maintenance allowance did not receive any payments in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [247137]

Jim Knight: Eligibility for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is based on household income. The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information on household income for every eligible 16to 18-year-old who participates in a course that meets the EMA valid provision criteria. Therefore it is not possible to calculate the number of students who were entitled to EMA but did not receive any payments or did not take up their entitlement.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England received education maintenance allowance in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09 to date; [247139]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England have received (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 in education maintenance allowance in (A) 2006-07, (B) 2007-08 and (C) 2008-09 to date. [247138]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for

Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of young people in *(a)* North Wiltshire constituency, *(b)* Wiltshire, *(c)* Swindon and *(d)* England have received (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance in each year since the scheme began. [247224]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the planned extension of the education maintenance allowance to include young people taking entry to employment courses have commenced. [247252]

Jim Knight: From July 2008 all Entry to Employment (E2E) learners have received the maximum education maintenance allowance (EMA) regardless of their household income. Once a young person has completed their E2E programme and is ready to progress onto other post-16 provision they will be expected to apply again for EMA and will be subject to an income assessment the same as other EMA applicants.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people entitled to the education maintenance allowance received no payments between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [248021]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA has transferred to Capita as from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many education maintenance allowance claims have yet to be processed; and if he will make a statement; [248022]

(2) how many education maintenance allowance claims have been lost since *(a)* 1 September 2008 and *(b)* 1 December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [248023]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA transferred to Capita as from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Yeovil with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many overdue education maintenance allowance payments there were at the latest date for which figures are available; and when he expects all overdue payments to have been made. [248197]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA has transferred to Capita as from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member for Stroud with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Disqualification

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people have had their education maintenance allowance withdrawn as a result of *(a)* disruptive behaviour in school or college and *(b)* poor attendance in each year since the scheme began. [247223]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for North Wiltshire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he will next visit educational establishments in Chorley constituency. [248346]

Ed Balls: I regularly visit schools in the North West and I look forward to visiting a school in Chorley with my hon. Friend when I am next in the region.

Head Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the local area pilots to improve head teacher succession planning within and across schools; and if he will make a statement. [247459]

Jim Knight: In 2006, we asked the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to develop and lead a succession planning strategy. As part of this, NCSL has rolled out the local solutions approach nationally. 148[1] local authorities have signed partnership agreements with NCSL to continue to address the succession challenge, which includes a particular focus on leadership diversification and the challenges faced by small primaries and faith schools. The local solutions programme is being evaluated externally by Warwick university and is due to report in early 2010. Evidence so far shows that 91 per cent. of LAs are better prepared to tackle succession planning than when they first engaged with the programme

in 2007, and that LAs are making progress in supporting schools to better develop and mentor leaders and establish effective leadership cultures. NCSL's internal evaluation indicates that LAs are making good progress in assessing their data and developing, implementing and monitoring their local strategies. The succession planning programme met its 2008-09 targets to stabilise headship vacancies and temporary filled posts.

[1] The Isles of Scilly and the City of London LAs have not signed partnership agreements. The small number of schools within these LAs participate in the programme by working with neighbouring LAs.

Headteachers: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many headteachers have been suspended for *(a)* three to six months, *(b)* six to nine months and *(c)* more than a year in the latest period for which figures are available; [248156]

(2) what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the suspension of *(a)* headteachers and *(b)* other teaching staff; and what grounds he has to intervene when such guidance has not been followed; [248157]

(3) what duty local authorities have to report the suspensions of headteachers to his Department; [248166]

(4) what powers his Department has to investigate the suspension of headteachers or other senior staff; and on what occasions such powers have been exercised in the last three years. [248167]

Jim Knight: The operation of disciplinary procedures, including those that result in suspension, is a matter for local determination. To support schools in this area there are a variety of sources of advice available to help governing bodies with their responsibilities. The DCSF's 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors and Staffing' guidance set out the statutory responsibilities falling to schools and local authorities as employers. This guidance is available through www.governornet.co.uk and www.teachernet.co.uk. These sources also provide access to an extensive range of additional guidance material including materials from the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Schools and local authorities are therefore able to draw from a wide variety of guidance when devising their policies and handling disciplinary cases, including suspension.

In respect of both head teachers and other teaching staff our guidance makes it clear that suspension is a neutral act allowing time to assess the situation before a final decision is taken. It does not imply guilt but provides an opportunity for matters to be investigated; nor does it go into detail about issues such as the length of any suspension. Decisions of this nature are best left to schools to determine, drawing on the guidance that is available and where appropriate on advice and support from local authorities. The only circumstances where the Secretary of State may become involved would be when an individual seeks intervention on the basis that the suspension is taking an unreasonably long time or the governing body appear not to be taking any further action.

There is no duty on local authorities to report suspensions of headteachers to the Department. Other than the circumstances described above the Secretary of State would not ordinarily become involved in suspensions of head teachers or other senior staff and there are no centrally held records setting out when and to what extent the Secretary of State has been involved. Accordingly the information requested is not collected centrally.

Mathematics: Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the teacher training bursary for mathematics teachers was in academic year 2008-09. [247398]

Jim Knight: £9,000 teacher training bursaries are payable in England to eligible trainees training to teach mathematics starting postgraduate courses leading to Qualified Teacher Status in 2008/09.

National Academy of Parenting Practitioners

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the National Academy of Parenting Practitioners provides support and training directly to parents to train them to deliver parenting classes to other parents. [249532]

Beverley Hughes: The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP) training offer is for parenting practitioners working in services such as Sure Start Children's Centres, schools, Youth Offending Teams, voluntary and community groups and other locally identified priority services; and those practitioners in priority roles who are working with families at risk with high levels of need (eg practitioners in Family Intervention Projects and the Parenting Early Intervention project).

The academy have asked parenting commissioners within local authorities to coordinate local responses to its training offer so that each authority's bid reflects locally identified needs and services. Some of the parenting programmes used by the Academy (including Families and Schools Together (FAST) and Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities) use trained practitioners to work with parents in the delivery of training to parents.

National Curriculum Tests

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children attained the national standard in all of their Key Stage 1 assessments in the areas between *(a)* 0 and 10 per cent., *(b)* 10 and 30 per cent., *(c)* 30 and 50 per cent., *(d)* 50 and 70 per cent., *(e)* 70 and 90 per cent. and *(f)* 90 and 100 per cent. on the index of deprivation in each year since 1997. [249526]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The latest published Key Stage 1 results at local authority level (provisional) can be found in Statistical Release 21/2008:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000806/index.shtml

New National Challenge Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the launch of the New National Challenge Programme; and if he will make a statement. [247477]

Jim Knight: The National Challenge Programme was launched on 10 June 2008. It will continue to sustain schools in need of additional support to ensure no school has fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils securing five higher level GCSEs including English and mathematics by 2011.

Schools: Accountancy

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the 2006-07 Consistent Financial Reporting Framework to support improved financial reporting and benchmarking by schools; [247202]

(2) whether the functionality to allow schools to be identified by name on the school financial benchmarking website has been implemented. [247452]

Jim Knight: Consistent financial reporting provides a detailed breakdown of the income and expenditure of each maintained school in England. It was introduced in 2002-03 and has subsequently undergone only minor revisions.

The data underpin the schools' financial benchmarking website. The site provides schools with the tools to compare their expenditure with that of similar schools. They can then tailor their spending and re-allocate resources to ensure that education spending reflects local educational policy and priorities and is effective in delivering them. During the 2007/08 academic year the site was accessed by over 10,000 schools and it is also used by local authorities.

There may be occasions where a school might want to contact another about its data, clarify their expenditure and discuss ways to address particular problems. In order to facilitate this, charts are now labelled with school names and their unique seven digit local authority and establishment number. Where names and number labels do not appear, the data have been suppressed in line with data protection rules to ensure that salary information for individuals cannot be identified. School names are only made available for registered users of the website, specifically schools and local authorities. Other users may access benchmarking information under 'guest user' terms but named data will not be visible to further protect the anonymity of individuals and schools.

In October and November 2008 the Department's efficiency and value for money team included CFR and benchmarking presentations in six regional conferences. These conferences were aimed at local authority education finance staff and auditors. Overall, participants were very positive about the effectiveness of the benchmarking website and CFR. They particularly welcomed the ease with which they were able to access information to allow comparison and to identify and flag up important resource trends.

Schools: Standards

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools were in special measures on 1 December 2008; [247454]

(2) how many schools were classed as requiring significant improvement on 1 December 2008. [247455]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of schools requiring special measures and significant improvement (notice to improve) at 31 August 2008. It reflects the latest information published by Ofsted. Data for the autumn term 2008 are due to be published at the end of this month.

	Number of schools requiring special measures at 31 August 2008	*Number of schools requiring significant improvement at 31 August 2008*
Primary	157	168
Secondary	50	70
Special	14	2
Pupil referral unit	12	1
Total	233	241

Specialised Diplomas

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the consultation on Promoting achievement, valuing success: a strategy for 14 to 19 qualifications; and if he will make a statement. [247239]

Jim Knight: In March 2008 we published our consultation paper "Promoting achievement, valuing success: A strategy for 14-19 qualifications". The consultation closed on 23 June 2008. We published a summary of the responses to the consultation on the DCSF consultation website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations

in July 2008 and published our formal response to the consultation in our "Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps" document which was published on 13 October 2008

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/14-19nextsteps.

Teachers

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, (1) how many mathematics teachers were employed in maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England in each of the last 10 years; [247485]

(2) how many teachers of foreign languages were employed in maintained secondary schools in England in each of the last 10 years. [247486]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

The number of mathematics teachers in maintained primary schools is not collected centrally; the number of teachers of mathematics and foreign languages in maintained secondary schools in England is collected as part of the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey. This is an occasional survey that does not provide a full-time series.

The following table gives data from the 2002 and 2007 surveys, the most recent years available:

Number of mathematics and foreign language teachers in maintained secondary schools in England: 2002 and 2007

	Full-time[1]		*Full-time equivalent*[1]	
	2002	*2007*	*2002*	*2007*
Mathematics	28,200	28,300	n/a	30,800
Foreign Languages[2]				
French	16,000	13,000	n/a	14,900
German	6,900	5,000	n/a	6,600
Spanish	3,600	4,800	n/a	5,200
Other modern languages	1,400	1,800	n/a	2,300

[1] Full-time teacher numbers are provided for 2002 and 2007; full-time equivalent teacher numbers (which includes part-time teachers) were only collected in 2007.
[2] Foreign language teachers may include some double counting as teachers are counted once under each subject they teach—a teacher teaching both French and German, for example, will be counted once under each subject in the table.
Source:
Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, 2002 and 2007

Teachers: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent progress has been made on the Transition to Teaching programme; and if he will make a statement. [247406]

Jim Knight: Transition to Teaching was launched in July 2008 with some 50 organisations backing it. Since then this has risen to some 130 organisations supporting the programme by agreeing to promote teaching as a second career to their staff. In addition to this, many outplacement organisations have recently agreed to promote Transition to Teaching to companies they work with, and many influencing organisations, including the CBI, are supporting the programme. Transition to Teaching consultants are currently supporting 58 individuals at different stages of the process of deciding whether or not to become a teacher. So far five of these have entered teacher training, a further four have been offered teacher training places and most of the rest have applied for a place or intend to do so soon.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Youth Taskforce has taken to improve responses to *(a)* antisocial behaviour and other serious problems and *(b)* work with Government Offices and other bodies to improve local authority performance. [247264]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Taskforce is now working across the country to drive improved local delivery of services and support for young people, ensuring that every local area has an effective approach to keep young people on track. The key steps taken by the Youth Taskforce are set out in my previous answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1154-55W.

The taskforce works closely with Government offices and other key partners including children's services, the police, youth justice and community safety services, to improve responses to youth antisocial behaviour, in line with the Government's Improvement and Efficiency Strategy for LA performance.

This includes funding specific projects to test and develop innovative approaches, ministerial and official visits, and regional and national training events for practitioners and managers, sharing practice between areas.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 21 January 2009

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what items in the Donated Asset Reserve 10 Downing Street holds; and what use it is making of *(a)* jewellery, *(b)* watches and *(c)* other items in the holding. [249181]

The Prime Minister: The Government have published an annual list of gifts received by Ministers in an official capacity valued at more than £140 since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. The list makes clear which gifts are held by Government Departments. The arrangements for the handling of gifts are set out in chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code.

Church of England

Mr. Drew: To ask the Prime Minister what recent representations he has received from Church of England bishops on Government economic and social policy. [249640]

The Prime Minister: I have regular discussions with a wide range of organisations and individuals, including the clergy.

Domestic Visits: Costs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what the cost to the public purse of the hotel accommodation for *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* his special advisers was during visits around the UK between 7 and 9 January 2009; [247931]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the three day tour he undertook between 7 and 9 January 2009. [247940]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not yet available. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister whether entry fees were charged for events held during his UK tour between 7 and 9 January 2009. [248047]

The Prime Minister: No entry fees were charged for any official events.

Ministers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to conduct exit interviews with Ministers leaving Government; and if he will conduct an exit interview with Lord Jones of Birmingham to discuss the noble Lord's experiences as a Minister. [249500]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W.

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make publicly available a full transcript of his speech to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust on 24 June 2008. [248512]

The Prime Minister: A transcript of my speech is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16129

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Offices

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* staff of hon. Members have an office in (i) 1 Parliament Street, (ii) Norman Shaw North, (iii) Norman Shaw South, (iv) the Palace of Westminster, (v) 7 Millbank and (vi) Portcullis House. [248140]

Nick Harvey: Full information on accommodation allocations on the House of Commons estate was given in the Third Report of the Select Committee on Administration Session 2005-06 HC1279 in June 2006. Updated information is as follows:

Hon. Members:

Parliament Street: 59 Members
Norman Shaw North: 103 Members
Norman Shaw South: 45 Members
Palace of Westminster: 238 Members
Portcullis House: 208 Members

Staff of hon. Members are not allocated rooms. Some have desks in rooms allocated to their employing Member, some have desks in suited rooms adjoining those of their employing Member and some have desks in shared accommodation occupied by the staff of more than one Member. The number of Members' staff fluctuates constantly and it is therefore difficult to give an exact figure for the number accommodated on the parliamentary estate. The figures for the number of desks occupied by Members' staff stated in the Administration Committee's report are as follows:

1 Parliament Street: 125
Norman Shaw North: 267
Norman Shaw South: 145
Palace of Westminster: 288
Portcullis House: 405

Hon. Members and their staff are not accommodated in 7 Millbank.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to ensure that those temporary and permanent employees at the same grade in his Department who are paid at an hourly rate are paid at the same rate. [244394]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), which was formed on 3 October 2008, will consist of posts transferred from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but staff will come to DECC from Energy Group in BERR and Climate Change Group in DEFRA. All DECC staff, including those in the corporate centre, are currently on either the BERR or DEFRA terms and conditions. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column reference 594W and by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were required to make contributions towards the cost of work carried out under the Warm Front scheme in Essex in each of the last five years; and what the average contribution was. [243816]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested is available from the beginning of the current phase of Warm Front, which commenced in 2005. The figures shown as follows are from 1 June 2005 until end of October 2008.

	Number of customers in Essex who made an additional contribution	*Average customer contribution (£)*
2005-06	304	412.95
2006-07	948	519.02
2007-08	2,114	608.02
2008-09	1,429	640.45

Nuclear Power: Consultants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which external consultants have been engaged by *(a)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(b)* the Nuclear Directorate in connection with the generic design assessment. [242506]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has engaged the following main group of external consultants in connection with the Generic Design Assessment (GDA) work:

IAEA
Washington E&C Ltd.
EPRI
Health Protection Agency
Morson International
Imperial College London
OECD-NEA
AMEC
Atkins Nuclear

A number of individuals have been engaged to form the Project Review Board, namely Mr. David Hughes, Professor John Raine, Mr. Bernard Whittle and Mr. Phillip Woodward. Additionally Mr. James Furness has been engaged as Project Assurance Officer.

It is the intention of the HSE's NII to employ other Technical Support Contractors throughout the GDA process to aid in the provision of supplementary data and information on the reactor designs. HSE are currently undertaking an open procurement process in line with EU guidance/regulations to identify and appoint such contractors.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many contractors have left the Warm Front scheme in each of the last six months. [243463]

Joan Ruddock: No contractors have left the scheme in any of the last six months.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on restrictions imposed by other countries on passengers carrying liquids on aeroplanes. [248505]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Liquid restrictions are in place at all EC airports as required under EC aviation security regulations. In late 2006 the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) issued a recommendation to each of its 190 contracting states that restrictions on the hand carriage of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs) through security search points should be imposed. Most major states have applied such restrictions, including the US, Canada, Australia, Japan and Singapore.

Bus Services: Concessions

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many appeals bus operators have made in respect of the rate of reimbursement for concessionary fares since April 2008; how many of these appeals *(a)* have been successful, *(b)* have been rejected and *(c)* are still outstanding; and what estimate he has made of the average cost to his Department of (i) processing and (ii) resolving an appeal of this type. [249539]

Paul Clark: There were 100 appeals by bus operators about reimbursement arrangements in 2008-09, of which five were not valid and 52 were later withdrawn. Of the 43 appeals remaining, by 19 January, 11 appeals have been determined by independent adjudicators appointed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. Of these appeals, five were upheld and six were dismissed. A further 32 appeals remain to be determined. It is intended to issue the majority of those determinations by the end of January.

The average cost of processing and resolving an appeal takes account of four officials working full-time for about half of the year on casework, the fees of consultants and the two independent adjudicators. The cost per appeal determined is estimated to be approximately £6,000.

Commuters: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what incentives are offered to people travelling to work in Hemel Hempstead to reduce the environmental impact of that travel. [249472]

Paul Clark: The policies and objectives in Hertfordshire county council's Local Transport Plan aim to encourage the use of alternatives to the car in order to protect the environment. Implementation is carried out through a variety of methods, including the improvement of public transport, the development of new cycling routes and working with local employers to encourage their staff to travel more sustainably. The Hemel Hempstead Urban Transport Plan includes a number of proposed measures including the development of travel plans for Hemel Hempstead railway station and the hospital, proactively encouraging the development of car clubs and establishing a project to provide individual households with travel planning advice.

Cycling: Safety

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure the protection of pedestrians from cyclists. [249825]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We advise all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians, of the need to be aware of others and be considerate of their needs. The main source of this advice is the Highway Code, which sets out road traffic law and advice for safe road users. It includes specific sections for cyclists and for pedestrians. The rules for cyclists make clear that they must not cycle on the pavement as this is an offence. It also provides advice on taking care of pedestrians in those areas where cyclists and pedestrians share space, such as unsegregated cycle tracks. In addition the Department for Transport provides local authorities with guidance on the planning and design of facilities used by pedestrians and cyclists including shared use.

Departmental Langnages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248073]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies recorded no instances where Ministers have received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months.

The following table provides a break down of civil servants within the Department and its agencies who have received coaching in a foreign language.

DFT (C)	*Delegates attended* *Not available*	*Language(s)* *French, Mandarin, Spanish, Italian and German*	*Cost (£)* *£6.50 -£8.00 per hour*
DVLA	0	—	—
HA	1	Dutch	700.00
MCA	1	Spanish	314.00
VGA	0	—	—
VOSA	1	Welsh	144.00
GCDA	0	—	—

Driver Information Systems: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conditions his Department has applied to the issue of licences for dynamic route guidance systems. [249322]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Those seeking licences have been obliged to submit to an independent assessment, commissioned by the Department for Transport, of the adequacy of the drivers' interaction with the equipment (with the aim of ensuring that the risk of driver distraction has been minimised). Assurance that the relevant product categorises roads appropriately for routeing has also been required and the licences issued have themselves included various requirements regarding for example record-keeping.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many instances of misuse of government procurement cards within the Government Car and Despatch Agency have been recorded since 1 January 2006; what the amount involved in each such instance was; and which disciplinary measures have been applied as a result of such instances. [247513]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Procurement Card (GPC) was introduced into the Government Car and Despatch Agency on 1 April 2006. Since that time the following incidents of misuse of the GPC have been recorded:

Number of incidents	*Value*	*Action taken*
13	Less than £10	Monies recovered and warning letters issued
5	£10 to £20	Monies recovered and warning letters issued
2	£20 to £50	Monies recovered and warning letters issued
1	£20 to £50	Charged with Gross Misconduct, monies recovered
1	£50 to £100	Monies recovered and warning letters issued
2	More than £100	Monies recovered and warning letters issued
1	More than £100	Charged with Gross Misconduct, monies recovered

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the time frame is for the electrification of the Great Western main line from London, Paddington to Bristol *(a)* Temple Meads and *(b)* Parkway stations. [249691]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to examine the case for further rail electrification. A decision on the electrification of the Great Western Main Line will be announced later this year, alongside decisions on the deployment of the new Intercity Express trains.

Heathrow Airport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department's assessment of the economic case for expansion at Heathrow takes account of projected income from air passenger duty. [249317]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The economic case for expansion is set out in the recently published document Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport—Impact Assessment (January 2009). This assessment includes among other things the air passenger duty revenues from additional non-transfer passengers that are forecast to use the additional capacity.

A copy of the impact assessment is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/impactassessment/.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account his Department has taken of *(a)* mineral reserves contained within the proposed Heathrow Expansion Area and *(b)* the possible impact upon the supply of sand and gravel for London's construction industry in its consideration of plans for a possible third runway. [249324]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A thorough assessment of historic mapping, aerial photographs and visual appraisal, found that around 43 per cent. of the proposed site area had been quarried for gravel extraction. This assessment is set out on page 31 of the "Adding Capacity at Heathrow - 2008 Historic Environment Appraisal", available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/historicenvironment/

No formal assessment has been made of the impact of additional capacity on the supply of sand and gravel for London's construction industry. The impact assessment includes estimates of the costs of construction of a third runway. This is a comprehensive assessment, which includes the cost of sand and gravel, and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/impactassessment/

Olympic Route Network

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads in Wandsworth have been identified as part of the Olympic Route Network (ORN), broken down by *(a)* core ORN, *(b)* venue specific ORN, *(c)* alternative routes ORN and *(d)* preferred training venues ORN. [248051]

Paul Clark: The following table lists the roads in the London borough of Wandsworth that are part of the proposed Olympic Route Network (ORN). Each road is categorised according whether it is part of the venue specific ORN or alternative routes ORN. None of the roads in Wandsworth are part of the core ORN or the preferred training venues ORN.

London borough of Wandsworth

Venue Specific ORN			
A217	Armoury Way	all	—
	Fairfield Street	Swandon Way	Wandsworth High Street
	Old York Road	Armoury Way	Fairfield Street
	Swandon Way	all	
A219	Wimbledon Park Side	West Hill	Parkside
	Parkside	Wimbledon Park Side	Borough boundary with Merton
A3	Wandsworth High Street	Fairfield Street	West Hill
	West Hill	Wandsworth High Street	Wimbledon Park Side
A3205	York Road	all	—
	Parry Street	Borough boundary with Lambeth	Nine Elms Lane
	Nine Elms Lane	all	—
	Battersea Park Road	all	—
A3209	Putney Bridge Road	West Hill	Armoury Way
Alternative Route ORN			
A205	Clapham Common West Side	all	—
	The Avenue	Clapham Common North Side	Clapham Common South Side
A218	Merton Road	Buckhold Road	Granville Road
	Buckhold Road	all	—
A219	Tibbett's Ride	all	—
	Putney Hill	all	—
	Putney High Street	all	—
	Putney Bridge Approach	Borough boundary with Hammersmith and Fulham	Putney High Street
A3	Huguenot Place	all	—
	North Side Wandsworth Common	all	—
	Battersea Rise	all	—
	Clapham Common North Side	Borough boundary with Lambeth	Battersea Rise
	East Hill	Marcilly Road	East Hill
A3036	Queenstown Road	Borough boundary with Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea	Battersea Park Road
A3216	Queen's Circus	all	—
	Church Road	Borough boundary with Merton	Wimbledon Park Road

London borough of Wandsworth		
Granville Road	Wimbledon Park Road	Merton Road
Marcilly Road	all	—
Wimbledon Park Road	Granville Road	Church Road

Railways

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average level of peak hour overcrowding on trains into the cities of *(a)* London, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Leeds, *(d)* Sheffield, *(e)* Liverpool, *(f)* Birmingham, *(g)* Glasgow, *(h)* Bristol, *(i)* Cardiff and *(j)* Nottingham in each of the last five years. [248626]

Paul Clark: Data are only collected and routinely provided to the Department for Transport by train operators serving the London and South East commuter market. Crowding data have not been consistently collected for the other cities mentioned for the period sought and are not available.

The information requested for train operators serving the London and South East commuter market is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office for Rail Regulation within its "National Rail Trends Yearbook" and are available on the Office of Rail Regulation website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk.

The latest published data relate to passenger counts carried out by train operators in autumn 2007.

Railways: Adlington

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reasons Network Rail have provided to his Department for re-routing more trains from Adlington to Manchester Victoria as opposed to Manchester Piccadilly under the new timetable introduced on 13 December 2008. [248370]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport in conjunction with Northern Rail, worked through timetable solutions with Network rail, to accommodate the enhanced West Coast timetable. Moving trains to Manchester Victoria was as a result of extra capacity at this station, becoming available. This is seen as an overall improvement which has led to an increase of 45 per cent. in additional capacity on long distance services.

Railways: Delays

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the financial effect on the economy of delays to rail services in *(a)* England and *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber in 2008-09. [247314]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information in the form requested.

Railways: Finance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to increase capital expenditure on rail links as part of the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; [248743]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by increased funding for new rail links in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 under the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; and what proportion of those jobs he estimates will go to British workers. [248747]

Paul Clark: The July 2007 Rail White Paper set out the Government's commitment of £10 billion towards increasing capacity on the rail network over the next five years, including improvements to the infrastructure.

In the pre-Budget report in November, the Government announced that they are bringing forward £3 billion of capital spending from 2010-11 to 2008-09 and 2009-10. The package included £300 million to accelerate the delivery of up to 200 new carriages to expand capacity on the rail network and an extra £54 million to help enhance the North London rail line to increase the long-term freight capacity of this vital cross-London rail route.

It is not yet possible to say how many jobs will be created in developing rail links in the next three years but British suppliers will be well placed to compete for this work.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1097W, what the reasons are for the differential treatment of light rail and non-light rail local transport schemes; and if he will make a statement. [249327]

Paul Clark: The reason for the difference in local contribution requirements is due to the scale, complexity and cost of light rail projects and the importance of ensuring commitment from promoters.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage support for projects of strategic national importance, with particular reference to rail freight interchanges. [249769]

Paul Clark: The Planning Act 2008 creates the framework for a clearer and more efficient system for considering the development of strategic rail freight interchanges. The Department for Transport also makes available capital grants for such infrastructure through the Freight Facilities Grant scheme.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and HM Treasury on financial support for rail freight interchanges. [249770]

Paul Clark: None. Investment in rail freight interchanges is a matter for the private sector. However, the Sustainable Distribution Fund makes funding available through the established Freight Facilities Grant scheme for rail freight interchanges where they remove lorry journeys from the roads.

Railways: Police

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how British Transport Police apply the provisions of section 44 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2000 to railway property; and if he will make a statement. [249332]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of stops made by British Transport Police on railway property between October 2007 and September 2008 resulted in *(a)* an arrest and *(b)* a conviction. [249333]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Scotland

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the financial and planning implications of the recently announced improvements to the rail system from London to Scotland. [249548]

Paul Clark: "High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd." will help consider the case for new high speed services from London to Scotland. As a first stage, the company will develop a proposal for an entirely new line between London and the West Midlands, and will report to Ministers by the end of the year. This will include costs and benefits of a proposed route, and financing options.

The Government intend to work closely with the devolved administrations in respect of the implications of the proposal.

Statutory consents for any type of cross-border rail project would be handled in accordance with the devolution settlement.

Road Signs and Markings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to local highway authorities on the use of No Pedestrians signs. [249320]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's Traffic Signs Manual (Chapter 3—Regulatory Signs) provides detailed guidance to local highway authorities on the correct design and use of the 'pedestrians prohibited' sign. The document is on the Department's website at the following address:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tss/tsmanual/tsmchapter3.pdf

Road Traffic: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions the Department has had with Gloucestershire County Council on the latter's lorry strategy. [248240]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has had no discussions with Gloucestershire county council regarding its lorry strategy.

Rolling Stock

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new carriages have been procured for *(a)* Northern Rail, *(b)* London Midland and the preceding franchise covering the West Midlands and *(c)* the franchises that provide commuter services in London and the South East in each of the last five years. [248629]

Paul Clark: The following number of new carriages have been procured for *(a)* Northern Rail, *(b)* London Midland and the preceding franchise covering the West Midlands and *(c)* the franchises that provide commuter services in London and the South East in each of the last five years.

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
(a)	0	0	0	0	0
(b)	120	0	0	219	0
(c)	0	180	220	84	96

The total number of new vehicles procured for commuter services operated by franchises or concessions in England between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2008 is as shown in the following table.

Train operator	*Class*	*Ordered*	*Number of vehicles*	*Entry into service*
Silverlink (now London Midland)	350/1	August 2004	120	2005
Chiltern Railway	168/2	May 2005	6	2006
SET	395	June 2005	174	2009
South West Trains	450	February 2006	68	2006
TfL	378	August 2006	152	2009
Southern	377/5	May 2007	48	2009
London Midland	350/2	August 2007	148	2008
London Midland	139	November 2007	2	2009
TfL	378	November 2007	36	2010
London Midland	172	December 2007	69	2010
Chiltern Railway	172	January 2008	8	2010
TfL	172	January 2008	16	2010
Southern	377/5	March 2008	44	2009
TfL	378	April 2008	28	2010

Trams: Sheffield

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimates he has made of the cost of the tram-train trial on the Sheffield to Huddersfield line. [248678]

Paul Clark: Network Rail will spend £15 million in track improvements and alterations to stations as part of the trial and the Department for Transport will contribute £9 million to fund the operation of the trial.

Travel: Leisure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of leisure journeys in Great Britain were taken by those aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* between 18 and 19, *(c)* between 20 and 24, *(d)* between 25 and 34, *(e)* between 35 and 44, *(f)* between 45 and 59, *(g)* 60 and 64, *(h)* between 65 and 69 and *(i)* 70 years or over in each year since 1997. [249319]

Paul Clark: Data from the National Travel Survey on the percentage of leisure journeys made in Great Britain by age from 1996-98 to 2006 are given in the following table.

	Age (years)									
	0-16	*17-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70 and over*	*Total*
1996-98	21	4	7	17	13	19	5	5	9	100
1997-99	21	4	7	16	14	19	5	5	9	100
1998-2000	21	4	7	16	14	19	5	6	9	100
1999-2001	21	4	7	15	14	19	6	6	9	100
2002	22	4	7	13	15	20	6	5	9	100
2003	23	4	6	14	15	19	6	5	9	100
2004	22	4	6	12	15	19	6	6	9	100
2005	23	4	6	13	15	19	6	5	9	100
2006	22	4	6	13	15	20	6	5	9	100

Note:
Leisure includes: Visiting friends at private home, Visiting friends elsewhere, Entertainment/public activity, Sport: participate, Holiday: base, Day trip and Other inc. just walk.

Waterloo Station

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the track works outside Waterloo station required to bring the old Eurostar platforms into use for commuter services; and what the annual cost of maintaining these platforms is. [249043]

Paul Clark: Network Rail is currently developing the options and undertaking the detailed cost analysis of carrying out the works to bring the old Eurostar platforms into use for domestic services. The cost analysis should be available in the spring.

The platforms at Waterloo International are an integral part of the terminal building which is operated and managed by BRB (Residuary) Ltd (BRBR) as a single site. As such it is not possible to accurately determine the cost of maintaining the platforms on a stand alone basis. The total annual costs of managing the entire facility are in the order of £2.5 million. These costs are partially offset by rental income of approximately £340,000 per annum and BRBR are looking for further opportunities to generate income while the terminal is non-operational.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Debt Collection

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government takes to monitor the debt collection strategies of bailiffs appointed by the Child Support Agency. [241926]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Government takes to monitor the debt collection strategies of bailiffs appointed by the Child Support Agency. (241926)

All bailiff firms, including those providing services to the Child Support Agency, must comply with the National Standards for Enforcement Agents, a set of common standards produced by the Government as a code of practice.

The Child Support Agency also has a framework agreement with its bailiff service providers. This agreement set out the performance standards expected by the Agency and covers operations, compliance and complaints. In addition to a series of formal quarterly contract meetings, to review performance, the Agency remains in close contact with its bailiff service provider in order to resolve issues as they arise.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the transfer of historical child maintenance cases on to the Child Support Agency's new system for calculating maintenance payments to be complete. [249016]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when he expects the transfer of historical child maintenance cases onto the Child Support Agency's new system for calculating maintenance payments to be complete. [249016]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for all Child Support Agency functions, assets and people from 1 November 2008. All existing Agency clients have the option either to agree a private maintenance arrangement or to remain within the current schemes until the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme is introduced.

The Commission expects to introduce the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme in 2011 and all Agency clients on both schemes will then be invited either to apply to the new gross income scheme or to make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median number of days was for child maintenance to be sent to parents with care after the non-resident parent had made payment (i) in the most recent period for which figures are available and (ii) over the last three years. [245228]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the (a) mean and (b) median number of days was for child maintenance to be sent to parents with care after the non-resident parent had made payment in (i) the most recent period for which figures are available and (ii) all such periods over the last three years. [245228]

The information requested is provided in the attached table, which sets out the time between a receipt arriving in the Agency's bank account and the Agency forwarding payment to the parent with care for all cases held on the current computer system (CS2). The table shows at September 2008, the mean and median number of days it has taken for receipts received between September 2006 and September 2009 to be paid out by the Agency to the parent with care. This represents 70% of the Agency caseload. Management information is not available for the 30% of cases held on the old computer system (CSCS).

The table also shows improvements made since the introduction of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan in 2006, on the length of time it takes the Agency to allocate maintenance, which includes the minority of payments where there has been significant delay.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

The mean and median number of days for child maintenance to be forwarded to the parents with care after the non-resident parent made payment, from September 2006-09

Receipt received	*Mean days*	*Median days*
September 2006	13.2	2
October 2006	12.0	2
November 2006	11.9	2
December 2006	11.5	2
January 2007	9.9	2
February 2007	9.7	2
March 2007	9.2	2
April 2007	9.3	2
May 2007	8.5	2
June 2007	7.5	2
July 2007	7.4	2
August 2007	7.3	2
September 2007	7.4	2
October 2007	6.9	2
November 2007	5.8	2
December 2007	5.3	2
January 2008	4.7	2
February 2008	4.3	2
March 2008	4.4	2
April 2008	3.9	2
May 2008	4.1	2
June 2008	3.5	2
July 2008	3.4	2
August 2008	2.9	2
September 2008	2.2	1

Notes:

1. Only includes receipts and payments for cases held on the current computer system (CS2) and represents 70 per cent. of the Agency caseload. Management information is not available for the 30 per cent. of cases held on the old computer system (CSCS).
2. Information provided calculates time between receipt arriving in Agency's bank account and the Agency forwarding payment to the parent with care.
3. Mean—the average number of days taken, which will take into account all payments, including the minority of payments where there has been a significant delay, and as such can be significantly altered by a few extreme cases.
Median—the middle figure in a series.

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of new claims for *(a)* income support and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance by parents with care the applicant opted to apply to the Child Support Agency for child maintenance in each of the last three years. [249026]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 January 2009:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in what proportion of cases of new claims for (a) income support and (b) jobseeker's allowance by parents with care the applicant opted to apply to the Child Support Agency for child maintenance in each of the last three years. [249026]

Section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991 made provision for a claim to relevant benefits by a parent with care to be treated as an application for child maintenance. Therefore, all parents with care making a new claim to Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance would be classed as opting to also apply to the Child Support Agency for child maintenance.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 repealed Section 6 of the Child Support Act 1991, removing this compulsion for all new claims to benefit from 14 July 2008 and for all existing cases from 27 October 2008. Information on the proportion of parents with care who have made a new claim to Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance since 14 July 2008 and who subsequently decide to make an application for child maintenance is not yet available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Crisis Loans: Telephone Services

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of calls to the Crisis Loan Helpline have been dropped or cut off before being answered in each of the last 12 months; [248605]

(2) how long it has taken to answer calls to the Crisis Loan Helpline on average in each of the last 12 months. [248606]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department's customer information system does not meet Cabinet Office rules for personal data. [249656]

Jonathan Shaw: The Cabinet Office's requirements for accreditation apply only to IT systems which were introduced after 1 July 2008.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of his Department's IT strategy in the Library. [246678]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's IT strategy is available to the public, and will be placed in the Library. It consists of two documents:

(1) The IS/IT Strategy brief—this document provides the overarching principles the Department will apply to all IT decisions and answers questions regarding how the Department will deliver its IT.

(2) The Strategy for Business IT Services—this document provides a view of the IT capabilities that are required for the Department's business over a 10-year period and answers questions regarding what the Department will be delivering.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place a copy of his Department's skills framework for IT staff in the Library. [246679]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department uses the Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA), which has been adopted by the Government IT profession. A copy of the current (December 2008) version will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Procurement

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 10 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [243360]

Jonathan Shaw: Until October 2008 the Department for Work and Pensions was required to monitor and publish payment performance against a 30-day payment target and does not therefore currently publish information about payment within 10 days. However, following the PM's commitment of 8 October that central Government Departments will make payment within 10 days, we will additionally report 10-day payment performance from the period January to March 2009.

The Department for Work and Pensions does not currently publish information about size of suppliers. We do not discriminate by size because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

The Department for Work and Pensions welcomes the statement by the Prime Minister at Prime Minister's Questions on 8 October 2008 and the Department has made changes to its payment process in order to meet this commitment as soon as possible.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether representations will be invited from officers in local authorities' strategic housing and homeless services when the local housing allowance is reviewed by his Department. [248700]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* As part of the two year review of the local housing allowance, we have begun to engage with local authorities, including on issues of homelessness. If there is specific written evidence that officers in local authorities' strategic housing and homeless services would like to submit, then this will be welcomed.

Industrial Health and Safety: Arthritis

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission research into the effects on expenditure on benefits of patients with rheumatoid arthritis receiving treatment that enables them to continue to work or return to work. [247295]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave her on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 4.

Industrial Health and Safety: Qualifications

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the recommendations of the 2006 Carpenter Report, if he will support a set of core criteria for health and safety pre-qualifications, as a baseline for recognising competences across different pre-qualification schemes. [246829]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government already support a set of core criteria for assessing the competence of individuals and organisations prior to their appointment to carry out construction work. They are set out in the Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) which provides advice on compliance with the provisions of the

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM2007). These core criteria are based on the criteria recommended in the Carpenter Report. As well as forming part of the practical advice that the ACoP provides on compliance with the competency provisions of CDM2007, the core criteria aim to provide a basis for simplifying the wide variety of competence assurance schemes operated by the construction industry. Since publication of the ACoP, the Government have supported the work the industry is doing to both raise standards and simplify assessments in this area.

Pension Funds

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on pensioners of the Government Actuary's decision to reduce draw-down rates from pension funds; and if he will make a statement. [247211]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Tables drawn up by the Government Actuary's Department on behalf of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) determine the rates for income withdrawal rates from pension funds. The current tables took effect on 6 April 2006 and have not subsequently been changed by the Government's Actuary. The tables are used to calculate the maximum level of unsecured pension or alternatively secured pension that may be paid in light of the pensioner's age, gender and the prevailing yield figure on UK gilts. The rates of pension that can be provided using these tables have changed along with movement in gilt yields.

Flexibility in the withdrawal rules allows pension schemes to pay between 0 and 120 per cent. of amounts shown by the Government Actuary's tables to members under the age of 75; and so, in most cases, to pay as much income as if an annuity had been purchased.

Poverty: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are being taken to reduce levels of relative child poverty in *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England. [247608]

Kitty Ussher: We have made substantial progress in tackling child poverty. 600,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty since 1998-99. As a result of the support we have introduced, families with children in the poorest fifth of the population, including those in the Vale of York, are, on average, £4,100 a year better off than in 1997. The measures we announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 will increase this to £4,400 from April 2009. In addition, Government measures over the past two years will result in lifting around a further 500,000 children from relative poverty. Our plans for reducing levels of child poverty in England were set out in 'Ending child poverty: everybody's business' which is available in the Library.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children classified as being in relative child poverty were of *(a)* white, *(b)* Pakistani or Bangladeshi and *(c)* black non-Caribbean ethnicity in (i) the Vale of York and (ii) England in the latest period for which information is available. [247611]

Kitty Ussher: Available information is given in the table. Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in relative poverty at Government Office Region level or for Inner or Outer London. This means information for the Vale of York is not available.

Numbers of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median from 2004-05 to 2006-07 for white, Pakistani/ Bangladeshi and black non-Caribbean ethnic groups, before housing costs, England

Ethnic group of household reference person	*Number of children (million)*
White	1.7
Pakistani/Bangladeshi	0.2
Black non-Caribbean	0.1

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three sample years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or "equivalised") for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.
7. Children have been classified according to the ethnic group of the household reference person. The household reference person is classified as the highest income householder without regard to gender. This is consistent with the Households below Average Income publication.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07

Social Fund

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the contribution credit unions can make to the delivery of the Government's social fund; and what discussions he has had on this matter. [248161]

Kitty Ussher: An informal consultation paper, "Social Fund: A New Approach" was published on 1 December 2008 discussing a number of reforms to the social fund. One of the reforms on which initial views were sought was contracting with credit unions or other external organisations to provide credit in place of social fund loans. The intention is to move from a scheme that provides only loans to people on benefit to one that also connects our customers to organisations with whom they can maintain a relationship when they move off benefit and into work which could include better financial advice and support. The views expressed through the consultation, including those from the Credit Union movement, will inform the next steps in developing this type of scheme.

In the mean time the Government are taking the opportunity offered by the Welfare' Reform Bill to take powers to work in partnership with organisations capable of delivering interest free external provider social loans.

Social Fund: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each London borough received a crisis loan in each of the last five years. [247033]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available broken down by local authority.

Social Fund: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in Lancashire in each month of 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247430]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Crisis loan applications for Lancashire are processed at Chorlton benefit delivery centre. However, Chorlton benefit delivery centre does not only process applications from Lancashire.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Targeting Benefit Thieves section of his Department's website costs to run each year; and what the initial implementation cost of this section of the website was. [249019]

Jonathan Shaw: There are no separately quantifiable set-up or running costs for the Targeting Benefit Thieves section of the Department's website.

Maintenance of DWP websites is mostly carried out by the Department's own in-house digital media team. It is not possible for us to quantify internal staff costs, because in most cases, staff are engaged in more than one role. In addition, we are unable to establish accurately our infrastructure costs because they form part of a wider departmental IT contract.

DWP is currently working with the COI to develop a standardised method for quantifying website costs across Government. We will be implementing this standard from March 2009 in line with the current timetable.

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 419-20W, on social security benefits: overseas residence, what the outcomes of his Department's consideration of the implications of the European Court's decision are for UK citizens who live in another EEA state area or in Switzerland and who wish to claim a disability benefit; and if he will make a statement. [249398]

Jonathan Shaw: We expect to set out entitlement conditions for those wishing to claim from abroad shortly. The Directgov website will be updated at that time. The site can be found at:

www.direct.gov.uk

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 420W, on social security benefits: overseas residence, how many of the 1,700 requests for payment of *(a)* disability living allowance (care component), *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* carers' allowance made by people who previously lived in the UK and are now living in another EEA state or Switzerland have been granted; and if he will make a statement. [249454]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 982W.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to issue guidelines to employers on reducing exposure of employees to high temperatures in the workplace. [249053]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Guidance is already available to employers in 'Heat stress in the workplace. What you need to know as an employer' and in detailed supporting information which is on the Health and Safety Executive website.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Fuel Smuggling

5. **Mr. Syms:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the quantity of fuel smuggled between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [248303]

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the trends in the level of fuel smuggling into Northern Ireland. [248304]

Paul Goggins: Latest HMRC figures indicate that the amount of fuel used but not sourced in NI is reducing. However, the OCTF is not complacent, during 2007-08 HMRC seized 0.82 million litres of fuel, disrupted eight laundering plants and seized 844 vehicles.

Unemployment

6. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the most recent Northern Ireland quarterly employment survey findings on levels of unemployment in Northern Ireland. [248305]

Paul Goggins: While this is a devolved matter for Northern Ireland Ministers, I understand from the statistics that have been published today that the seasonally adjusted number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in Northern Ireland stands at 35,900 which represents an unemployment rate of 4.2 per cent.

Saville Inquiry

7. **Mr. Gerald Howarth:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate he has made of the final cost of the Saville inquiry. [248306]

Mr. Woodward: I have taken urgent steps to ensure the remaining running costs are kept as low as possible. A package of measures has been agreed with the inquiry to reduce the projected cost by approximately £1 million—a 20 per cent. reduction for the remaining stages. The revised estimated final cost is now £190 million.

Security Situation

8. **Peter Bottomley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the threat to security in Northern Ireland arising from the recent threat by the Real IRA to fight the long war. [248307]

Mr. Woodward: As the Chief Constable and Garda Commissioner have indicated, dissident republicans remain a serious and continuing threat with a determination to kill or injure police officers. These criminal gangs are isolated within the wider community and law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border remain resolute in their determination to tackle such criminality.

11. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Northern Ireland. [248310]

Mr. Woodward: Dissident republicans remain active and committed to killing or injuring police officers. Progress from loyalists towards decommissioning has been disappointing and I would again encourage them to take advantage of the extension to the decommissioning amnesty.

Public Spending

9. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions the Government had in June 2008 with representatives of the Democratic Unionist party on public spending in Northern Ireland. [248308]

10. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions the Government had in June 2008 with representatives of the Democratic Unionist party on public spending in Northern Ireland. [248309]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular meetings with all the Northern Ireland political parties which cover a range of issues relating to Northern Ireland. These discussions have included the post-devolution policing and justice budget. However, public spending on devolved matters is a matter for the Northern Ireland Executive.

Offenders

12. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent steps he has taken to strengthen the supervision of offenders following their release from prison. [248311]

Paul Goggins: The statutory arrangements for the supervision of offenders are kept under regular review. I am introducing a range of new measures to strengthen the management of offenders and protect the public. This includes: tightening the framework for managing dangerous offenders; increasing the scope of offender supervision; and implementing new technology.

Policing and Justice: Devolution

13. **Mr. Stephen O'Brien:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what account he plans to take of the discovery of Semtex and detonators in the Republic of Ireland in December 2008 in his plans for devolution of policing and justice responsibility. [248312]

Mr. Woodward: While I have no reason to believe this find is inconsistent with the previous comments made by the IMC, the Commission will wish to consider carefully the outcome of the Garda investigation when it is complete.

Economic Situation

14. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on the economic situation in Northern Ireland. [248313]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with Northern Ireland Ministers on a wide range of subjects including economic matters, which are of course devolved. I met the Minister for Finance and Personnel yesterday to discuss economic matters relating to Northern Ireland.

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248257]

Paul Goggins: There have not been any such cases in the Northern Ireland Office since 1997.

Electronic Equipment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland with reference to the answer of 12 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on electronic equipment, for what reasons electronic equipment with a value of more than £1,000 is classed as capital expenditure. [243437]

Paul Goggins: Electronic equipment with a value of more than £1,000 is classed as capital expenditure in line with the departmental accounting policy which sets the threshold for capitalising items at £1,000.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average daily cost of keeping a person in prison in Northern Ireland was in the last period for which figures are available. [247044]

Paul Goggins: The average daily cost of keeping a person in prison in 2007-08 was £222.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249126]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has not answered any written questions when the cost of preparing the answer would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold as the Minister did not believe it to be in the public interest to answer such questions irrespective of cost.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength of reserve units in Her Majesty's Armed Forces based in Ashford constituency is; and how many personnel from such units have been deployed on operations overseas in the last 12 months. [249189]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are two Territorial Army sub-units of 103 Battalion REME in Ashford, namely 133 Workshop Company, REME and 103 Battalion REME Stores Section RLC. The units have a strength of 79 and nine personnel respectively. During the last 12 months, five members from those units were deployed on operations overseas.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department and its agencies provides for staff. [249071]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested. Catering in MOD establishments is usually provided as part of facility management multi-activity contracts, or is contracted out under the Pay As You Dine initiative. Details of the outlets are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249137]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not recorded.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when firm orders will be placed for Tranche 2 and Tranche 3 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft; in what respects their capabilities will differ from Tranche 1 aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [248632]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The contract for Typhoon Tranche 2 was signed in December 2004 and the first deliveries of aircraft from that tranche commenced in October 2008.

Tranche 1 aircraft are optimised for air-to-air combat; an air-to-surface capability has also been integrated and was declared combat ready by the RAF in July 2008. In common with the Tranche 1 specification, Tranche 2 aircraft have air-to-air capability, and an enhanced air-to-surface capability is scheduled to be integrated on Tranche 2 aircraft from 2012. Negotiations with partner nations and industry are continuing on the Typhoon Tranche 3 contract and decisions will be taken once these negotiations are complete.

NATO Response Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units form the British commitment to the NATO Response Force in 2009. [249734]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: From January to June 2009, the UK's commitment to the NATO Response Force is a Maritime Component Command Flagship with Destroyer/Frigate escort, Mine Hunter and associated logistic support (an Auxiliary Repair Ship, Support Ship and Logistic Ship Dock (Auxiliary) with Boarding Team); and a Deployable Air Operating Base, four Air Defence Aircraft, four Fighter Bomber Aircraft and four Close Air Support Aircraft together with two Transport Aircraft and up to two Airborne Early Warning Aircraft.

From July to December 2009, the UK will contribute a Destroyer/Frigate Escort Ship and a Maritime Patrol Aircraft; a Land Component Command Headquarters and associated support, and a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company; six Fighter Bomber Aircraft, six Close Air Support Aircraft, two Air-to-Air Refuelling Aircraft, two Transport Aircraft and up to two Airborne Early Warning Aircraft.

Navy: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average unit tour interval was for each ship type in the Royal Navy over the last eight years. [249708]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The average tour unit interval by surface ship type, defined as a ship being away from its base port for more than three months, from 2003 for which information is available is as follows (rounded to the nearest month):

	Months
Land Platform Dock	17
Landing Platform Dock Helicopter	20
CVS	33
Destroyers	
T42	16
Frigates	
T22	14
T23	14
Mine Counter Measures Vessels	14
HMS Endurance	5

Exceptions

Survey Vessels have up to two and a half year deployments.

River Class Patrol Vessels on Fishery Protection undertake eight week (approx) taskings.

Falkland Island Patrol Vessel permanently deployed.

Spearhead Land Element

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regiment or battalion forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE); whether it is fully equipped; whether the present SLE is deployed; and when the future SLE will take over from the present SLE. [249726]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The 3rd Battalion The Rifles forms the Spearhead Land Element (SLE), which is not currently deployed. The SLE is currently fully equipped in accordance with the Joint Rapid Reaction Force Directive and operational mounting instructions. The next SLE will be provided by the 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, who will assume this role from 1 March 2009.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Beaches: Naturists

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his policy is on the provision of naturist beaches. [248130]

Barbara Follett: My officials have consulted colleagues in DEFRA, the Department responsible for beaches, who have advised that there is no specific policy on the provision of naturist beaches.

However, The Marine and Coastal Access Bill will provide for a new right of access to the English coast and the expectation is that most beaches will be included within this, which will not affect any existing rights or permissions for naturists that may exist on the coast.

DEFRA officials are arranging a meeting with British Naturism to hear their views on the coastal access proposals.

Byron Review

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff provided support for the Byron Review. [247419]

Barbara Follett: Two members of staff (one at Grade A and one at Grade B) provided support for the review as it was conducted.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243725]

Barbara Follett: In the period from 1 December 2007 to 30 November 2008, the amount spent by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on advertising was as follows: *(a)* public appointments £142,595; *(b)* communications £14,340; and *(c)* recruitment £24,343.

Mass Media: Economic Situation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on *(a)* recent reductions in advertising revenues to (i) television companies, (ii) radio companies and (iii) newspapers and *(b)* recent job losses in the media industry; and if he will make a statement. [248976]

Barbara Follett: I have received a number of representations from the television, radio and press sectors on a variety of issues affecting the media industry, including advertising revenues and employment. Full details of recent correspondence in these areas could be identified only at a disproportionate cost.

Public Libraries

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the aggregate scheduled duration of opening for all libraries per 1,000 population in each local authority was in each of the last three years; [247577]

(2) what proportion of static libraries provided access to *(a)* internet services, *(b)* broadband internet services and *(c)* wi-fi internet services in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [247578]

(3) how many electronic workstations with access to the internet there were in library service outlets per 100,000 population in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [247579]

(4) how many library visits were made per 100,000 population in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [247581]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally. However, the Public Library Statistics, published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), contain similar data to that being sought. The House of Commons Library holds copies for the period in question.

Public Libraries: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what proportion of requests for books from library service points were met within *(a)* seven, *(b)* 15 and *(c)* 30 days in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [247580]

(2) what proportion of library users aged 16 years and over viewed their library service as very good or good in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [247582]

(3) what proportion of library users aged under 16 years viewed their library service as good in each local authority area in each of the last three years; [247583]

(4) how many items were added through purchase to library service outlets per 1,000 population in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [247584]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in Public Library Statistics. The House of Commons Library holds copies for the period in question.

Sports: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking in conjunction with Sport England to promote sport participation projects in the North East to meet regional priorities on health and well-being. [245859]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Legacy Action Plan commits to getting 2 million people more active by 2012, and Sport England will deliver 1 million of these through sport. The remaining 1 million is a cross Government target, and Sport England will contribute by making wide links with those involved in promoting physical activity, such as primary care trusts and local authorities, as a platform for many people to become involved in sport.

Sport England is also funding a Facilities Improvement Service designed to assist selected local authorities with their planning tools and ensure that they take a strategic view of facility provision. This service is currently working with Middlesbrough and Gateshead councils. Sport England will additionally invest up to £10 million per year of capital funding in projects to promote a sustainable approach to community facilities throughout the country, including the north east region.

Sports: Public Participation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to *(a)* increase levels of participation in sport and *(b)* improve the provision of sporting facilities, with particular reference to the North East. [244671]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) Sport England have developed a strategy to create a world leading community sport system. This strategy will deliver 1 million more people playing sport by 2012. As part of this process Sport England have been working closely with 46 national governing bodies (NGBs) to develop new Whole Sport Plans, giving the experts in each sport the opportunity to shape its strategic direction.

(b) Sport England are also funding a Facilities Improvement Service designed to assist selected local authorities with their planning tools and ensure that they take a strategic view of facility provision. This service is currently working with Middlesbrough and Gateshead councils. Sport England will additionally invest up to £10 million per year of capital funding in projects to promote a sustainable approach to community facilities throughout the country, including the north east region.

Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what reports he has received on the expected level of tourism to the UK in April 2009. [247740]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain produced a Forecast Report in December 2008 which looks ahead to 2009 and considers what is likely to happen to the volume and value of inbound tourism to the UK. The report can be viewed at the following web link:

http://www.tourismtrade.org.uk/Images/Foresight%2OIssue%2062_tcm12-44469.pdf

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance the Government is providing to coastal towns to increase tourism to such towns in 2008-09. [249777]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* VisitBritain is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to promote Britain overseas as a tourist destination and co-ordinate the domestic marketing of England, with VisitEngland which includes the promotion of coastal towns. In addition, this Department has made available a funding package of £45 million (£15 million p.a. over three years) through the Sea Change Programme which aims to catalyse the regeneration of seaside resorts in England through cultural and heritage projects. This programme will not only benefit the local community, but also help boost the visitor economy of resorts. £14.6 million has been made available to 15 resorts through the programme in 2008-09.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Local Government: Equality

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which local authorities have not yet *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* completed an equal pay review. [247674]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

It is for local authorities, as employers, to work actively with the unions to deal with equal pay in an affordable way. Central Government do not have direct involvement. The Local Government Employers organisation monitors progress in local government towards implementation.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which local authorities have been permitted to borrow to fund equal pay deals in the last two years; and how much was borrowed in each case. [247786]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

On 26 September 2008, £455 million of capitalisation directions were issued to 34 authorities to enable them to make equal pay back-payments and speed up progress on delivering equal pay. The 2008-09 announcement builds on the £500 million of capitalisation directions allocated to 46 authorities in 2007.

The full list of authorities awarded capitalisation in 2007-08, including the amount of capitalisation used by individual authorities is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/equalpay0708.pdf

The list for 2008-09 is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/977615

however, the amount of capitalisation used by individual authorities in 2008-09 will be published on the Department's website in September 2009.

In order to avoid prejudicing ongoing local negotiations details of the amounts sought by authorities or directions issued, have not been published.

HEALTH

Autism: Health Services

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are available for adults with autism in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249821]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

At a local level, it is for local health and social care service providers to ensure that people with autism and their carers receive the necessary information and support they require.

We plan to publish commissioning guidance to support local authorities this spring. It will build on the 2006 document

"Better services for people with an autistic spectrum disorder: A note clarifying current Government policy and describing good practice", which clarified the nature and intent of Government policy as it relates to adults with an autistic spectrum condition.

Dementia

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he has taken to facilitate early diagnoses of Alzheimer's disease and dementia on the part of GPs in the last three years; [249399]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to provide rapid access to effective drug treatment to those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. [249401]

Phil Hope: The importance of early diagnosis, intervention and care options for people with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, will be emphasised in the national dementia strategy, which will be published shortly.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published technology appraisal guidance on drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in September 2007. The guidance recommends a number of drugs for use in the moderate stage of the disease and national health service organisations are now statutorily required to make funding available to implement NICE's recommendations. NICE has also published a clinical guideline on dementia, which we expect NHS organisations to implement over time.

Dementia: Care Homes

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* care homes and *(b)* care home places for people suffering from dementia there were in each local authority area in Kent in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [249188]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it does not register care homes according to the number of people from a specific client group, such as those suffering dementia. CSCI will register a home as being able to care for at least one person from a particular client group. CSCI is able to produce data from 2004 when it was first established. Information from earlier years is not available centrally.

The following table shows the numbers of care homes and registered places in Kent county council. Data for other areas within Kent are not available separately.

Care homes and places in Kent

	As at 31 March:									
	2004		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Homes	*Places*	*Homes*	*Places*	*Homes*	*Places*	*Homes*	*Places*	*Homes*	*Places*
All homes	792	15,907	774	15,763	759	15,642	748	15,485	746	15,673
Homes registered to care for people with dementia[1]	122	4,554	125	4,699	127	4,860	131	5,050	134	5,218

[1] Homes do not register the actual number of places they have for each client group. They indicate which groups they can provide at least one place for. The number of registered places shown is the sum of all places in the care home that indicated they provide care for at least one person with dementia.

Source:
CSCI database as at 2 May 2008

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire provide NHS treatment to (i) children and (ii) adults; and how many and what proportion of (A) children and (B) adults in the area received NHS treatment from such dentists in the last 12 months. [249087]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published work force figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

These figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others, or between treatments for adults and children.

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 June 2008 is available in table D1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Q1 2008-09" report. Table D2 contains information on the numbers of patients seen as a percentage of the population. Information is provided by PCT and SHA and is available by adult and child patients seen.

This report, published on 27 November 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q1

Health Services: Elderly

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many elderly people have received services under the quality care and support system in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [249655]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre for health and social care collects and publishes information on the number of people receiving local authority funded social care in a domiciliary or residential setting in England.

Information is collected from councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs). Data are not collected centrally at constituency level.

The following tables show the number of individuals in England aged 65 and over who received domiciliary or residential care funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities as at 31 March of each year.

Number of people aged 65 and over receiving care funded wholly or in part by councils with adult social services responsibilities at 31 March 2008, England

Rounded numbers

	2004		2005		2006	
Councils with social services responsibilities	*Domiciliary care*[1]	*Residential care*[2, 3]	*Domiciliary care*[1]	*Residential care*[2, 3]	*Domiciliary care*[1]	*Residential care*[2, 3]
England	[5]—	213,100	641,900	204,600	652,200	199,300
North East	[5]—	15,000	44,400	14,350	45,550	14,300
Darlington	[5]—	585	1,425	625	1,410	625
Hartlepool	[5]—	550	1,765	505	1,820	490
Middlesbrough	[5]—	725	3,130	670	3,085	645
Redcar and Cleveland	[5]—	855	2,175	740	2,665	660
Stockton on Tees	[5]—	1,045	2,590	1,050	2,775	1,035

Rounded numbers

	2007		2008[1]	
Councils with social services responsibilities	*Domiciliary care*[1]	*Residential care*[2, 3]	*Domiciliary care*[1]	*Residential care*[2, 3]
England	646,500	190,300	661,400	182,200
North East	47,850	13,200	45,750	12,650
Darlington	1,385	530	1,415	590
Hartlepool	1,790	460	1,815	440
Middlesbrough	2,950	630	3,050	655
Redcar and Cleveland	2,495	680	2,675	680
Stockton on Tees	2,805	960	2,885	855

[1] Data for 2007-08 is provisional.
[2] Excludes other unstaffed homes and adult placements.
[3] Data includes clients formerly in receipt of preserved rights.
[4] Data includes Boyd loophole residents.
[5] Not available. Guidance was restated for 2004-05 referrals, assessments and packages of care (RAP) collection and data are not comparable.
Source:
RAP form P2s & SR1 form Table S4

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government plans to take in response to the Healthcare Commission's finding in its report, Count Me In, that people from an ethnic minority are more likely to be misdiagnosed, overmedicated and placed in seclusion. [249514]

Phil Hope: The Healthcare Commission published its report on the 2008 Count Me In census on 27 November 2008. Count Me In does not collect information about patients' diagnosis or medication. The census reports since 2005 show that there is no consistent picture of differential treatment with regard to seclusion. Different ethnic groups have been recorded as more or less likely to be subject to seclusion each year.

In 2005 the Department launched 'Delivering Race Equality in Mental Health Care' (DRE). DRE is a five-year action plan designed to improve black and minority ethnic (BME) communities' experience of mental health services.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what instructions he has given to trusts to *(a)* allow families to reclaim the cost of hospital car parking charges incurred when visiting their children and *(b)* provide free car parking bays in hospitals for parents visiting their children. [249783]

Mr. Bradshaw: Car parking arrangements, including charges, are a matter for individual national health service bodies, based on their own local circumstances. However, guidance from the Department to support trusts in implementing parking policies, issued in December 2006, strongly recommends NHS bodies to provide free or discounted car parking to those patients and their relatives or primary visitors who have to use the car park regularly. The Department reminded NHS bodies of this in November 2008.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Caernarfon of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1245W, how many of the 926 prisoners with mental illness who were transferred from prison to hospital in 2007 *(a)* remain in hospital, *(b)* were returned to prison and *(c)* absconded. [245964]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected by the Department. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have supplied information in respect of individual patients with mental illness transferred from the prison service to hospital.

Further to the answer to the hon. Member for Caernarfon (Hywel Williams) of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1245W, the MoJ have revised their data and report that the number of prisoners with mental illness and who were transferred to hospital in 2007 was 934, not 926.

Of these 934 patients, 301 remain in hospital, 167 were returned to prison and one patient absconded and is still at large. Of the remaining 465 individuals, 219 were remitted to a court to deal with as unsentenced prisoners who were awaiting a court appearance when transferred to hospital. A further 242 were either not subject to restrictions at the time of transfer, or saw their restrictions expire after transfer, and would have remained in hospital only so long as their mental condition required it. Of the remaining four individuals, one has been deported and three have died.

These figures include six people who absconded at some point during their stay in hospital and later returned.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on mental health services for prisoners in each *(a)* prison and *(b)* health authority area in each of the last five financial years; and how many prisoners received such treatment in each of these years. [247068]

Phil Hope: Information on spending on mental health services in each prison and health authority between 2002-03 and 2006-07 is shown in the tables, which have been placed in the Library. As of 2007-08, this allocation was baselined to form part of the overall prison health allocation and spending on offender mental health services is no longer referred to separately.

In addition to this recurrent funding, the Department has made two non-recurrent payments totalling £4.2 million in 2007-08 and 2008-09 to targeted establishments for mental health in-reach services.

Information on the number of prisoners receiving mental health services is not collected centrally.

Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reasons were reported to him by the Chief Executive of NHS Mid Essex for the decision to change the name of the Mid Essex Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement. [249899]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) have the freedom to choose whether or not they make the transition to the new identity, 'NHS Local' (rather than 'Local' PCT). In order to keep costs to a minimum, we advise that the transition is made when it is practically and economically feasible to do so through planned replacement programmes. This may be by, for example, exhausting existing supplies of stationery and updating property signage.

You may wish to inquire with your local PCT for further information.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total number of people who are affected by long-standing musculoskeletal problems, broken down by *(a)* condition and *(b)* age group; and what his Department's definition of a long-standing musculoskeletal problem is. [249248]

Ann Keen: A long-standing musculoskeletal problem is defined as a non time-limited medical condition which predominately affects the muscles, joints and skeleton.

We have made no estimate of the number of people living with long-standing musculoskeletal problems, broken down by condition and age group.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of primary care consultations which relate to musculoskeletal complaints, broken down by the proportion relating to

(a) rheumatoid arthritis, *(b)* osteoarthritis, *(c)* osteoporosis and *(d)* other complaints; and what assessment he has made of future trends in this proportion. [249252]

Ann Keen: Such information is not held centrally.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Carers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to train those carers caring for people with musculoskeletal conditions through *(a)* the Caring with Confidence programme and *(b)* other means. [249277]

Phil Hope: At a national level the training provided by Caring with Confidence is in two forms—generic and 'tailored'. The generic training is relevant to any carer (i.e. including those caring for someone with a musculoskeletal condition) and has been available since August 2008, the 'tailored' training will meet the needs of specific carers i.e. those who are caring for someone with dementia, or caring for someone of black or minority ethnic background, and will become available over the coming months.

The determination of the carer groups to be provided 'tailored' training was made following consultation with the national carers' charities and providers of training to carers—those with musculoskeletal problems were not identified in this process. Should the need for 'tailored' training for carers of those with musculoskeletal conditions emerge there is flexibility to meet this need within Caring with Confidence's delivery arrangements.

Carers can also access NHS Choices, which has much information on musculoskeletal conditions.

At a local level, it is for local health service providers to ensure that people with musculoskeletal conditions and their carers receive the necessary information and support they require.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Employment Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with musculoskeletal problems have participated in condition management programmes under the Pathways to Work scheme in each year since 2006-07; and what proportion of such participants he estimates returned to work after participation. [249273]

Ann Keen: The number of referrals from Jobcentre Plus to the NHS Condition Management Programmes of individuals who had musculoskeletal problems are as follows:

	Referrals
2006-07	2,801
2007-08	5,974
2008 to November 2008	4,485

Job outcome figures are not collected for the Condition Management Programme.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Professions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which NHS units treating musculoskeletal conditions in England include representatives of the *(a)* rheumatology and *(b)* orthopaedics medical specialties; and if he will make a statement. [249249]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect centrally information on the representation of different disciplines in musculoskeletal departments. It is for local organisations to decide on the staffing structure of their individual departments. The national musculoskeletal coordinating group includes representation of both the British Society for Rheumatology, British Orthopaedic Association as well as other professional bodies.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical assessment and treatment services for musculoskeletal conditions there were in the NHS in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [249250]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect centrally information on the number of clinical assessment and treatment services for musculoskeletal conditions.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to encourage faster referral from GPs to specialists of patients with serious musculoskeletal problems. [249276]

Ann Keen: The Department has developed five orthopaedic commissioning pathways which pertain to musculoskeletal conditions hip pain, knee pain, shoulder pain, chronic pain back pain and carpal tunnel syndrome. These were published as part of 43 18-week commissioning pathways that reflect national good practice. These pathways highlight the types of conditions that need to be referred for specialist assessments as well as stressing clinical urgent conditions (often referred to as red flag patients) that need emergency treatment. A further pathway is currently in development for arthritis.

The pathways are high-level service models to help support and enable commissioners and service providers to challenge existing practice, utilise service improvement tools and techniques, maximise opportunities for transformational change, provide a catalyst for local discussion and challenge in order to deliver 18-week pathways.

From the 1 January 2009, the minimum expectation of consultant-led elective services will be that no one should wait more than 18 weeks from the time they are referred to the start of their treatment, unless it is clinically appropriate to do so or they choose to wait longer.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of patients with musculoskeletal problems were listed for surgery by a clinical assessment and treatment service in each year since 2005. [249242]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

Neonatal Mortality

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* babies were delivered in each NHS trust and *(b)* unexplained neonatal deaths there were in each of the last three years. [248217]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) babies were delivered in each NHS trust and (b) unexplained neonatal deaths there were in each of the last three years. (248217)

ONS does not routinely link information on hospitals to their respective trusts. Therefore figures on babies delivered in each NHS trust are not readily available. Data are however available by primary care organisations in England and local health boards in Wales by residence of the mother and these are shown in attached table for 2005-2007 (latest year for which figures are available).

Figures on unexplained deaths are only available at a national level. Figures for England and Wales are shown in the attached table for 2004-2006 (latest year for which figures are available).

Copies of the tables are available from the Library of the House.

NHS: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff were employed by the NHS in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the most recent year for which figures are available. [249035]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of staff employed in Hertfordshire.

Number (headcount)

	Total specified organisations[1]	*East and North Hertfordshire PCT*	*East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust*	*West Hertfordshire PCT*	*West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust*	*Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust*
All Staff	15,979	3,164	5,438	3,271	3,929	177
Of which:						
General Practice (GP)	3,037	1,474	—	1,563	—	—
All General Practitioners	790	340	—	410	—	—
Practice nurses	412	203	—	209	—	—
Other practice staff	1,875	931	—	944	—	—
Medical and dental staff	1,325	27	625	19	477	177
Non-medical staff[2]	11,617	1,663	4,813	1,689	3,452	—
Professionally qualified clinical staff	6,105	835	2,551	926	1,793	—
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	4,531	548	1,971	642	1,370	—
Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (ST and T)	1,574	287	580	284	423	—
Qualified Allied Health	899	272	196	262	168	—
Professions						
Qualified Healthcare Scientists	364		208	1	155	—
Other qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff	312	15	176	21	100	—
Support to clinical staff	3,323	357	1,247	577	1,142	—
Support to doctors and nursing staff	2,676	311	988	510	867	—
Support to ST and T staff	647	46	259	67	275	—
National health service infrastructure support	2,172	467	1,015	173	517	—
Central functions	1,386	351	604	84	347	—
Hotel, property and estates	445		356	2	87	—
Managers and senior managers	341	116	55	87	83	—
Other staff or those with unknown						
Classification	17	4	—	13	—	—
Unknown	17	4	—	13	—	—

[1] Workforce data is not available at parliamentary constituency area, nor by broad geographical regions. Hemel Hempstead constituency and the area of Hertfordshire are contained within and served by the trusts and organisations provided here.
[2] Figure excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals.
Data quality
Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics
The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1751W, on the NHS Pensions Agency: resource accounting and benefits, for what reason the NHS pension scheme resource accounts were not published between the 2008 summer recess and the end of the 2007-08 Session; and when he plans to publish them. [249006]

Ann Keen: In his written ministerial statement of 16 December 2008, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster referred to overpayments made to pensioners of public sector pension schemes, including the NHS pension scheme.

The NHS pension scheme accounts contain reference to these overpayments. The decision was taken not to publish the accounts until such time as we had sufficient information to be able to inform the pensioners. Critical to this decision was the need to avoid unnecessary public concern among the vast majority of national health service pensioners who were entirely unaffected, but who would not have known that had a general announcement been made. Letters were sent to affected pensioners on 15 December and the statement, formally notifying Parliament of the overpayments, was made on 16 December.

The accounts will be now be laid before the statutory deadline of 31 January 2009.

NHS: Resignations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many chief executives of NHS trusts left their posts in the last 12 months, broken down by reason for departure. [248913]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many agency staff each NHS trust has used in each of the last 10 years; and at what cost in each such year. [248914]

Ann Keen: The number of agency staff used by each national health service trust is not collected centrally.

A table which shows agency spend for each NHS trust for 2001-02 to 2007-08 has been placed in the Library. Data are not available prior to 2001-02.

NHS: Training

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirements are placed on students in receipt of NHS bursaries to work within the NHS. [249801]

Ann Keen: Healthcare students are encouraged and supported to develop at least some of their career within a national health service setting, however, they are not obliged to do so, it is a matter for the individual.

A review of NHS student support was announced in Lord Ara Darzi's "A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Stage Review" (30 June 2008). A copy of the review has already been placed in the Library. The Department is working in partnership with key stakeholders to undertake the review of existing arrangements for NHS student support and will consider a wide range of options for NHS student support in the future.

Osteopathy

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many osteopaths have been added to the any willing provider lists held by primary care trusts to date. [249552]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Out-patients

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many outpatient appointments were missed *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each NHS trust in each year since 1997-98. [249243]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data requested have been placed in the Library.

Pharmacy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* all medicines dispensed in the community and *(b)* all medicines for the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions dispensed in the community have been prescribed by supplementary prescribers in each year since 2004-05. [249265]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect specific information that differentiates prescriptions written by supplementary prescribers.

Physiotherapy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of self-referrals of patients to physiotherapists which were found to be inappropriate in the last three years. [249272]

Ann Keen: No estimates have been made centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine where self-referral is clinically appropriate.

Prescriptions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to healthcare professionals on preventing, prescribing and dispensing errors in relation to immunosuppressant therapies. [249788]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) reviews medication errors on an ongoing basis, and prioritises the production of guidance and recommendations based on the level of harm reported to its Reporting and Learning System (RLS), other national and international reporting systems and published literature.

The Agency has also produced a series of design guides in the 'Design for Patient Safety' series, which aim to improve the labelling, and packaging of pharmaceutical products. A copy has been placed in the Library. These have been issued to pharmaceutical companies to assist them produce products that minimise the risk of miss-selection and other patient safety incidents. These materials are also used by national health service (NHS) medicines procurement groups to purchase products which are safer in use. A design guide on The Dispensing Environment which identifies ways that good design of the dispensing environment can help improve the accuracy of the dispensing process has also been produced by the NPSA.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has, as part of an European Union-wide action on two specific immunosuppressant therapies, agreed to send a 'dear Doctor/Healthcare Practitioner letter' to the relevant NHS staff, and made proposals for changes to the packaging for Advagraf to emphasise that it differs from Prograf. In addition, MHRA included the issue in their December edition of the Drug Safety Update, with a further article in the January 2009 edition. These should help to make prescribers, pharmacists, and patients aware of the brand being prescribed, whatever the manufacturer, and the associated dose regimen. MHRA has also highlighted the issue to other information providers, including the British National Formulary and the National Prescribing Centre.

Rehabilitation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of NHS rehabilitation services which have been provided *(a)* in the community and *(b)* in institutional settings in each year since 1997-98. [249266]

Phil Hope: No estimate has been made of the proportion of rehabilitation services provided in the community and in institution settings.

Shoulder Replacements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts performed between one and 12 shoulder replacements inclusive in the latest year for which figures are available, as recorded by the Hospital Episodes Statistics database. [249256]

Ann Keen: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

TREASURY

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Government have taken to encourage banks to assist mortgage payers made unemployed; [248319]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to assist people paying their mortgages. [245468]

Ian Pearson: The Government have announced a new Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme, which will enable households that experience a significant and temporary loss of income as a result of the economic downturn to defer a proportion of the interest payments on their mortgage for up to two years.

The Government have also launched a mortgage rescue scheme to help borrowers facing repayment difficulties remain in their homes and this scheme has been extended to include second charge lending. Local authorities and housing associations can either buy a property and then rent it back to them, or buy a share of the property to reduce the household's overall mortgage costs.

The Government also provides direct support to individuals through Support for Mortgage Interest (SMI), which is available to those out of work and pensioners. As a temporary measure, the waiting period has been cut to 13 weeks for all new working age claimants and the Government are broadening the reach of the scheme by increasing the size of the mortgage for which support is payable to £200,000.

The Government have also extended the provision of free impartial debt advice with measures announced in the pre-Budget report.

Construction: Finance

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that the £3 billion capital spending which is being brought forward results in construction activity; and which projects will receive a portion of such funds. [247821]

Yvette Cooper: The £3 billion of capital spending brought forward aimed to support a number of different industries and jobs around the country, including through construction activities.

For example, the capital spend being brought forward by the Department for Children, School and Families will provide opportunities for small businesses locally and allow schools and children to benefit early from important projects to further improve school buildings. Decisions on how the funds will actually be used will be made at the local level to meet local priorities.

Details on the capital projects to be funded by the £3 billion spending package can be found in the 2008 pre-Budget report, paragraph 6.13.

Departments are currently working to ensure this money is spent in the appropriate manner and the Treasury is monitoring the development of the capital projects included in the £3 billion package.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what are *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs' definition of pre-surplus staff; and what the criteria are under which an individual is added to the pre-surplus staff database. [241745]

Angela Eagle: In HM Revenue and Customs, when it becomes clear that work is reducing in a location and the number of posts needed to carry out the work is likely to reduce, senior managers within HMRC will assess whether their business will have a potential staff surplus. Wherever possible, the aim will be to manage the situation before declaring staff pre-surplus. Only permanent HMRC staff are eligible for pre-surplus status.

Where senior managers identify that there is a potential staff surplus they will consult with staff and the unions representing the staff affected, then commence pre-surplus measures. Those measures will include working with other senior managers and HR Business Partners to consider all the options for managing the potential pre-surplus situation.

Staff can be declared pre-surplus in two ways.

All staff in a particular grade, team or location could be declared pre-surplus. Once there has been a sufficient reduction in staff numbers, the remaining staff will no longer have pre-surplus status.

Alternatively, when a specific reduction is needed quickly, senior managers could run a selection exercise to identify which members of staff will fill posts to be retained. The remaining staff are then made pre-surplus.

Once declared pre-surplus, individual staff are added to the pre-surplus database. This ensures they are given priority access to vacancies within HMRC, and vacancies in other Government Departments.

HM Treasury does not use the term 'pre surplus' nor has any equivalent category.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249145]

Angela Eagle: Information relating to Ministers' consideration of parliamentary questions is not held in the format requested.

Fisheries: Tax Yields

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the contribution of the fishing industry to the Exchequer. [249150]

Angela Eagle: Comprehensive information is not available.

Available information is given as follows:

Income tax (IT) and national insurance contributions (NIC): relevant information is available for income tax (IT) and class 1 contributions deducted through PAYE. These estimates are set out in the table.

Fishing

	PAYE deductions of IT and class 1 NICs (£ million)
2002-03	19
2003-04	21
2004-05	21
2005-06	21
2006-07	23
2007-08	24

The estimates for the fishing industry are set out in the following table:

	CT liability (£ million)
2001-02	14
2002-03	15
2003-04	15
2004-05	13
2005-06	18
2006-07	29

VAT—Most outputs from the UK agricultural sector fall under the VAT zero rate for food and as such the sector overall receives VAT repayments. The latest data on net receipts for the sector "Fishing and Fish Farms and Related Service Activities" for 2005 is published in the VAT fact sheet:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=factvat

HMRC does not collect information on excise duties and other taxes attributable to purchases of fuel, alcohol etc. by the fishing industry.

Gift Aid

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's projection is of the amount of gift aid that will be paid to charities in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [249222]

Mr. Timms: Information on the cost of gift aid tax relief can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-2.pdf

Income Tax

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to announce changes to the Government's policy on income tax before the forthcoming Budget. [247964]

Mr. Timms: The 2008 pre-Budget report set out the key parameters of the income tax, national insurance and tax credits system for the coming year (2009-10) in the usual way. It also announced the Government's next set of reforms to the tax and benefit system, providing additional help for low and middle income families this year, and setting out changes to income tax and national insurance contributions in 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much landfill tax was paid by each local authority in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09 to date. [249462]

Angela Eagle: It is not possible using landfill tax receipts data to determine how much revenue is received from local authorities. This is because registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HM Revenue and Customs and pass on the cost to their customers through the disposal charges they set. The origin of the landfilled waste is not recorded on the tax return.

Landsbanki

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons he did not ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to make full repayment of depositors' monies in Landsbanki a condition of the IMF loan to Iceland. [247569]

Ian Pearson: On 19 November the IMF announced the approval of a $2.1 billion two-year loan for Iceland to support an economic recovery program to help Iceland restore confidence in its banking system and stabilise its currency. This includes Iceland's commitment to

"ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of depositors and creditors of the intervened banks"

and Iceland's recognition of its obligations to depositors under the EC Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive.

Details of the stand-by arrangement are available from the IMF website:

http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=22513.0

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress the Government have made in negotiations with the Icelandic government on the return of funds lost by the depositors in Landsbanki Guernsey. [247570]

Ian Pearson: Landsbanki Guernsey is a subsidiary of the Icelandic parent company, Landsbanki. Landsbanki Guernsey is in administration and is subject to arrangements in Guernsey.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities. The focus of the negotiations is to ensure Iceland honours its obligations to depositors under the EC Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive and ensures the fair and equitable treatment of creditors.

The IMF stand-by arrangement to Iceland, agreed on 19 November, includes Iceland's commitment to

"ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of depositors and creditors of the intervened banks".

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 25 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Christchurch on behalf of Mr Richard Bell. [248813]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Mortgages: Interest Rates

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to encourage lenders to pass on recent Bank of England interest rate cuts to mortgage holders. [249833]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1900W.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters have been sent in error by HM Revenue and Customs wrongly advising individuals that they have made insufficient national insurance contributions in respect of the financial year 2006-07. [248574]

Mr. Timms: The exercise to issue contributors with deficiency notices advising them of shortfalls in their national insurance contributions for the tax year 2006-07 started on the 31 August 2008 and ended on the 12 January 2009. A total of 2,862,065 letters were issued. No information is held on the number sent in error.

National Insurance Fund

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how surplus funds from the National Insurance Fund have been allocated over the last five years. [247559]

Mr. Timms: Under the provisions of Section 161(3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, any surplus in the NIF is invested by the Commissioners for the reduction of the national debt (CRND) The role of the CRND is (in accordance with section 161(3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992) to invest money which is paid over from the fund.

Public Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's total expenditure on *(a)* services to the public and *(b)* services purchased by the Government has been in each year since 1997-98. [248520]

Yvette Cooper: Total Managed Expenditure (TME) is a measure of total public sector current and capital spending drawn from the National Accounts. It therefore represents total government spending on providing services

to the public. TME has most recently been published in Table B1 of the monthly Public Sector Finances Databank at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/psf_statistics.htm.

The purchase of services by the public sector is not separately identified from the purchase of goods. The combined figures were most recently published in Table 5.6 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2008, available at

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa08.htm.

These figures, as with most in PESA08, are available back to 2002-03. Figures for previous years are not available on a consistent basis.

Sustainable Development: Finance

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to page 125 of the pre-Budget report for 2008, which three years are to be covered by the £50 million of funding for the low-carbon sector; and if he will break down this funding by *(a)* year and *(b)* project. [240318]

Angela Eagle: The figure of £50 billion brings together Government spending, fiscal support and private investment driven by Government regulation in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and public transport over the period of the comprehensive spending review (2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11). The estimated breakdown for the full three-year period is set out by theme, as follows:

Technology support

Estimated at £1,200 million including the domestic Environmental Transformation Fund, Research Councils, Technology Strategy Board, Carbon Trust, Energy Technologies Institute and Enhanced Capital Allowances.

Renewables support

Estimated at £5,800 million including private sector investment in renewables and the renewables obligation.

Energy efficiency

Estimated at £9,800 million, made up of CERT, the Community Energy Saving Programme, Warm Front, Decent Homes, the Energy Saving Trust, Smart metering for SMEs and public sector sites, Reduced VAT for Energy Savings Materials, Landlord Energy Savings Allowance, incentives for thermal insulation in industrial installations, and the value of CCL exemptions.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from municipal waste

Estimated at £2,200 million including PFI programme and capital grants to local authorities for recycling.

Transmission and electricity distribution infrastructure

Estimated at £7,600 million, including funding to link low carbon power generators to the national grid.

Public transport and low carbon and electric vehicles

Estimated at £23,200 million including spending on rail, Crossrail, TFL and public transport in the devolved Administrations, as well as spending on low carbon and electric vehicles.

The figure published is not exhaustive as it does not include:

The value of 'EU ETS allowances' over this period;

'R and D tax credits' for low carbon R and D;

The significant low carbon investment by 'local authorities' or much of the investment by 'devolved Administrations' and 'RDAs';

Low carbon investment driven 'by building standards regulations';

Low carbon investment driven by 'minimum efficiency standards' for products;

Investment in the 'gas distribution grid' even where this brings new homes on to the gas grid, replacing higher CO_2 oil heating systems;

'Stamp duty exemption' for new zero carbon homes;

'Enterprise Investment Scheme' (EIS) and 'Venture Capital Trusts';

Private or public sector spend on other low carbon electricity sources, such as 'nuclear' or preliminary work on the demonstration of 'carbon capture and storage'; and

'UK spend on low carbon technologies in developing countries'.

Tax Credit

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in how many cases relating to tax credits the Parliamentary Ombudsman has found maladministration as part of the Adjudicator's Office in each year for which figures are available. [245587]

Mr. Timms: In 2007-08, the ombudsman accepted 68 complaints against the Adjudicator for investigation. Further details, including a breakdown of tax credits cases is available upon request to the ombudsman, an officer of Parliament.

Tax Havens: Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to questions 245836, 245837, 245838 and 245839, how much was spent on the research study to explore customer experiences of the offshore disclosure facility before work was halted. [249296]

Mr. Timms: The postal cost incurred as a result of HMRC writing to potential participants was £640. The only other HMRC cost was a limited amount of staff time.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have *(a)* sought and *(b)* been granted a deferral of tax liability by HM Revenue and Customs since the pre-Budget report 2008 was published. [249308]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's business payment support service is a demand-led service, available to businesses seeking to defer payment of taxes owed. It is currently receiving, on average, 1,000 calls each day from businesses. Since the introduction of the service at the pre-Budget report, it has helped over 20,000 businesses spread tax payments worth over £350 million through time to pay agreements.

VAT

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effect on the economy of recent changes to value added tax rates; what recent representations he has received on this issue; from whom; what responses he gave; and if he will make a statement. [247994]

Mr. Timms: We reduced the standard rate of Value Added Tax to 15 per cent. from 1 December 2008 to 31 December 2009 as part of a wider fiscal stimulus putting £12.5 billion back into the economy. It would be

premature to attempt to make an assessment now of the effect of this 13 month reduction in stabilising the economy.

We have received numerous representations from businesses, business representatives and consumers on issues associated with the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. and its impact. We are acknowledging comments and responding to specific queries.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the reduction in value added tax announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 in the next 12 months. [249306]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost of the temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT remains as published in table B5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses have paid value added tax (VAT) receipts to the Exchequer since the pre-Budget report was published; and what estimate he has made of the effect on consumer spending of the reduction in VAT announced in the pre-Budget report 2008. [249307]

Mr. Timms: The total number of VAT registered traders is available from the VAT National Statistics bulletin published at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullvat

An assessment of the anticipated impact of the reduction in the VAT rate on consumer spending behaviour can be found in paragraphs 2.40 to 2.45 in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

VAT: Innovation

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the levying of value added tax on payments made to projects under the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme. [249175]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of people in *(a)* Castle Point constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England are claiming (i) childcare tax credit and (ii) working tax credit. [249642]

Mr. Timms: Take-up rate estimates for the childcare element are not available, and take-up rates of working tax credit are only available down to regional level.

Information on the average number of in-work families benefiting from the childcare element in the areas mentioned based on final family circumstance and incomes is published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2006-07 Geographical analyses". This publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Estimates of child and working tax credit take-up rates for 2005-06, which are the latest available estimates, are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Take-up rates for working families with children at regional level are shown in table 9.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Assaults on Police

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded offences of assault on a police constable per 100,000 population there were in each police force area in each year from 2005 to 2007. [247151]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on recorded offences relates to 2005-06 to 2007-08 and is given in the following table. The data covers offences of assault without injury on a police constable. Offences in which police officers suffer injury will be recorded as a more or less serious wounding offence depending on the severity of the injury sustained.

Recorded offences of assault without injury on a constable per 100,000 population

	Rate per 100,000 population		
Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	56	56	47
Bedfordshire	50	56	19
Cambridgeshire	58	41	46
Cheshire	36	37	35
Cleveland	52	54	70
Cumbria	44	41	52
Derbyshire	13	15	13
Devon and Cornwall	30	29	24
Dorset	42	31	34
Durham	51	50	37
Dyfed-Powys	42	49	49
Essex	41	25	27
Gloucestershire	52	43	36
Greater Manchester	45	37	28
Gwent	43	61	57
Hampshire	51	53	55
Hertfordshire	60	53	50
Humberside	50	47	47
Kent	44	47	39
Lancashire	53	46	44
Leicestershire	49	35	32
Lincolnshire	29	36	39
London, City of	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Merseyside	50	53	59

Recorded offences of assault without injury on a constable per 100,000 population

Police force area	Rate per 100,000 population 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Metropolitan Police	40	45	43
Norfolk	49	46	44
Northamptonshire	42	39	31
Northumbria	44	46	26
North Wales	27	33	37
North Yorkshire	55	37	44
Nottinghamshire	31	34	31
South Wales	40	34	32
South Yorkshire	33	37	39
Staffordshire	60	40	40
Suffolk	48	43	45
Surrey	33	34	34
Sussex	52	50	55
Thames Valley	41	37	36
Warwickshire	49	55	55
West Mercia	25	23	23
West Midlands	13	13	12
West Yorkshire	39	40	31
Wiltshire	22	16	17
England and Wales	41	40	37

[1] Not applicable because of the resident population relative to the transient population.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funds *(a)* her Department, *(b)* the Association of Chief Police Officers and *(c)* police authorities contributed to local authority Preventing Violent Extremism projects in 2008, broken down by local authority; and if she will make a statement. [249586]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available broken down in the form requested as the funding covers a range of national, regional and local projects. The Home Office has announced £23.3 million in 2008-09.

£12.5 million was announced in June 2008:

£1 million for the Channel Project.

£3.5 million to youth offending teams and youth secure establishments on new work to prevent violent extremism, focused on supporting young individuals who have had contact with the criminal justice system.

£7.25 million to the National Offender Management Service and partner agencies, including ACPO, to do further work in prisons and the community to tackle vulnerability to radicalisation among offenders.

£750,000 for the Home Office to fund further grass-roots projects aimed at tackling radicalisation.

A further £10.8 million was announced in December 2008:

£5 million for local authorities, Government offices and the police in support of work in schools and colleges.

£5.8 million over the current CSR (£2.6 million for 2008-09) to fund a wide range of projects to disrupt radicalisers, strengthen institutions and support vulnerable individuals.

Funding was made available to a range of Prevent delivery partners, including but not exclusively, local authorities.

In addition to this, I announced that the Home Office is funding more than 300 new Prevent police posts over three years. £16 million will be spent this year creating new posts across 24 priority forces.

Information about other funds which may have been allocated by police authorities is not held centrally.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the £5.8 million fund to disrupt violent extremism will be distributed in 2009-10 and 2010-11; what the breakdown between local and regional projects will be; what type of projects the fund will be used for; what the criteria for making grants will be; how the grants will be evaluated; who will administer the fund; and if she will make a statement. [249590]

Mr. Coaker: £5.8 million will be provided to 33 projects, nationally, regionally and locally between 2008-11. This amounts to £2.275 million in 2009-10 and £918,000 in 2010-11. Of these 33 projects, four are national projects, 12 are regional projects and 17 are local projects. All funding is aimed at delivering objectives 2 and 3 of the Prevent strategy which seeks to:

disrupt those who promote violent extremism projects and support the institutions where they may be active; and

support individuals vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists.

The projects span a variety of fields, from building the local capacity to provide interventions to vulnerable individuals, educational projects, regional immigration pilots, work in prisons, probation and the education sector as well as training and awareness for front-line staff.

Grants are administered by the most appropriate body, for example Government Offices, ACPO or the Home Office. All funding is subject to regular reporting and we ensure each project provides the Home Office reasonable access to data and documentation, and commits to value for money.

Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilot projects to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour have been launched by her Department since 1 January 2006. [245952]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Trialling or piloting systems and processes, or their component parts, is normal practice throughout the lifecycle of projects large and small. Full records of all pilot projects since 1 January 2006 are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Crime: Computers

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions have resulted from investigations where police remotely accessed one or more personal computers in each of the last five years. [248935]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available.

Data on court proceedings reported to the Ministry of Justice does not contain information on the investigations that precede them.

Crime: Statistics

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1538W, on crime: statistics, how many *(a)* offences of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution, *(b)* incidents of prostitution-related activity and *(c)* incidents of youth-related anti-social behaviour were recorded by each police force in each of the last five years. [247294]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables. Table 1 gives the number of recorded offences of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution for 2003-04 to 2007-08. Table 2 gives the number of incidents of prostitution related activity. This data has been provided by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and is only available for 2007-08. Data in table 3 relates to incidents of antisocial behaviour (ASB). This information has again been provided by NPIA and is only available for 2007-08.

The response given on 1 September 2008 stated that data on the number of 'youth-related ASB' is being collected. NPIA have informed officials that this data is not currently collected centrally.

Table 1: Recorded offences of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution

Number of offences

Police force area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	28	50	52	98	80
Bedfordshire	7	27	25	27	75
British Transport Police	5	3	0	2	0
Cambridgeshire	1	1	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	209	204	74	101	74
Cumbria	0	0	0	1	0
Derbyshire	28	26	20	6	28
Devon and Cornwall	5	2	0	0	0
Dorset	28	8	28	46	14
Durham	0	0	0	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	1	0	0	0
Essex	9	5	5	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	1	0
Greater Manchester	62	3	34	67	105
Gwent	0	1	0	0	0
Hampshire	31	38	38	26	18
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0
Humberside	3	3	21	2	0
Kent	13	10	17	34	58
Lancashire	31	19	3	3	0
Leicestershire	4	2	1	10	10
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	0
London, City of	0	0	0	1	0
Merseyside	1	8	0	2	0
Metropolitan Police	939	916	806	317	244
Norfolk	14	5	1	1	26
Northamptonshire	18	53	29	88	144
Northumbria	1	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	0	0	1	1	0
Nottinghamshire	45	118	142	148	119
South Wales	5	6	2	3	10
South Yorkshire	114	64	54	76	47
Staffordshire	31	26	12	11	5
Suffolk	21	49	38	19	108
Surrey	1	0	0	0	0
Sussex	0	1	0	0	0
Thames Valley	25	18	7	17	10
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	1	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	129	97	174	99	46
West Yorkshire	130	55	55	82	24
Wiltshire	4	2	1	0	12
England and Wales	1,944	1,821	1,640	1,290	1,258

Table 2: Incidents of prostitution-related activity—2007-08

Police force area	*Number of incidents*
Avon and Somerset	173
Bedfordshire	150
British Transport Police	n/a
Cambridgeshire	82
Cheshire	12
Cleveland	89
Cumbria	6
Derbyshire	116
Devon and Cornwall	16
Dorset	128
Durham	1
Dyfed-Powys	3
Essex	102
Gloucestershire	20
Greater Manchester	247
Gwent	65
Hampshire	121
Hertfordshire	26
Humberside	91
Kent	92
Lancashire	129
Leicestershire	200
Lincolnshire	3
London, City of	5
Merseyside	124
Metropolitan Police	1,446
Norfolk	232
Northamptonshire	18

Table 2: Incidents of prostitution-related activity—2007-08

Police force area	Number of incidents
Northumbria	39
North Wales	2
North Yorkshire	7
Nottinghamshire	70
South Wales	328
South Yorkshire	283
Staffordshire	142
Suffolk	181
Surrey	19
Sussex	18
Thames Valley	85
Warwickshire	12
West Mercia	4
West Midlands	538
West Yorkshire	145
Wiltshire	54
England and Wales	5,624

n/a = Not available

Table 3: Incidents of antisocial behaviour—2007-08

Police force area	Number of incidents
Avon and Somerset	103,561
Bedfordshire	39,617
British Transport Police	n/a
Cambridgeshire	54,749
Cheshire	57,429
Cleveland	64,105
Cumbria	45,427
Derbyshire	75,649
Devon and Cornwall	106,403
Dorset	48,844
Durham	63,412
Dyfed-Powys	35,133
Essex	95,164
Gloucestershire	36,133
Greater Manchester	252,656
Gwent	67,556
Hampshire	142,061
Hertfordshire	84,801
Humberside	53,075
Kent	88,347
Lancashire	171,470
Leicestershire	58,442
Lincolnshire	40,099
London, City of	1,902
Merseyside	112,623
Metropolitan Police	387,862
Norfolk	62,033
Northamptonshire	62,699
Northumbria	171,347
North Wales	50,670
North Yorkshire	50,656
Nottinghamshire	88,240
South Wales	117,884
South Yorkshire	127,635
Staffordshire	61,888
Suffolk	43,970
Surrey	64,048
Sussex	106,526
Thames Valley	100,542
Warwickshire	30,390
West Mercia	88,770
West Midlands	172,034
West Yorkshire	148,521
Wiltshire	33,629
England and Wales	3,868,002

n/a = Not available

Crimes of Violence: Betting Shops

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward policies designed to prevent violence against betting shop workers; and if she will make a statement. [247932]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government take the problem of violence against betting shop workers very seriously and work is being undertaken across Government Departments to tackle it. A working group lead by James Purnell, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Pat McFadden, Minister for Employments Relations, and Postal Affairs has recently been established to consider action to be taken to deal with this issue. This will be attended by representatives of the book making industry, the third sector, the police, local authorities and other Government Departments.

Demonstrations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much has been spent on policing demonstrations in London on each day since 27 December 2008; [247698]

(2) how much has been spent on policing demonstrations in Manchester on each day since 27 December 2008. [247699]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. This is a matter for the police authority and the chief constable or Metropolitan Police Commissioner as appropriate.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of her Department's staff are employed in the *(a)* Programme and Project Management Support Unit, *(b)* Reform and Change Team, *(c)* Strategic Policy Team, *(d)* Delivery Unit and *(e)* Reform Programme Office of the Strategy and Reform Directorate; and how many are employed in the Directorate in total. [247826]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total number of staff employed by the Strategy and Reform Directorate and the specific directorates requested in the question.

	Headcount as at 31 December 2008
Total staff headcount[1] in Strategy and Reform Directorate	99
Which includes:	
(a) Programme and Project Management Support Unit	18
(b) Reform Team[2]	11

	Headcount as at 31 December 2008
(c) Strategic Policy Team	25
(d) Delivery Unit	10

[1] Headcount includes permanent and non-permanent staff (contractors, non-paid contractors, agency) and non-active staff.
[2] Merge of Reform and Change Team with Reform Programme Office.

Drugs: Sentencing

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have received the maximum sentence on conviction for dealing in (a) Class A drugs, (b) Class B drugs and (c) Class C drugs in each year since 1997. [248647]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is included in the following table. The data given includes possession with intent to supply, as well as supplying.

These data are based on the principle offence basis. Where an offender is found guilty of two or more offences, it is the offence for which the heaviest sentence is imposed which is recorded. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the statutory maximum penalty is most severe.

The maximum sentences for trafficking in control drugs are dependent on the class of drug involved. For class A drugs, the maximum sentence is life imprisonment. For class B and C drugs, the maximum sentence is 14 years.

The Government take dealing in illegal drugs very seriously. The maximum sentence for dealing class C drugs was increased to 14 years from five years in January 2004.

Offenders given maximum sentence for supplying drugs and possession with intent to supply offences, by class, 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Possession with intent to supply: Class A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Supplying: Class A	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Possession with intent to supply: Class B	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplying: Class B	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Possession with intent to supply: Class C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supplying: Class C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
3. These data are based on the principle offence basis, where an offender is found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest sentence is imposed, where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the statutory maximum penalty is most severe.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice.

Electronic Surveillance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legal protections there are for individuals against remote surveillance of their personal computers by third parties. [248637]

Mr. Coaker: Public authority authorisation and use of covert surveillance is strictly controlled by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA'). RIPA limits the purposes for which such surveillance may be used by specific public authorities and sets out the level and procedures for its authorisation. In particular it expressly requires that its authorisation is both necessary and proportionate with regard to human rights. This reflects the obligation on all public authorities to comply with the European Convention under the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998. RIPA also provides a system of independent oversight by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and a Tribunal for appeal if anyone believes they have been put under unlawful covert surveillance. The contact details are:

The Investigatory Powers Tribunal
PO Box 33220
London
SW1H 9ZQ
Telephone: 020 7035 3711

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rights the police and security services have to conduct remote surveillance of an individual's computer use outside the United Kingdom. [248638]

Mr. Coaker: Public authority conduct, under the covert surveillance provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, includes conduct outside the United Kingdom.

Fraud: Economic Situation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the likely impact on levels of fraud and other financial crime of the downturn in the economy. [246849]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have regular discussions with the financial sector and law enforcement and continue to monitor trends in fraud and financial crime. However, I have made no specific assessment of the impact of the downturn in the economy on these types of crime.

The Government are determined to tackle fraud and have recently allocated £29 million in new funding to establish the National Fraud programme. As part of this programme the new National Fraud Strategic Authority is working closely with stakeholders across Government, law enforcement and the private sector to drive forwards a concerted UK strategy against fraud and to make the UK a much more difficult place for fraudsters to succeed. In addition to the new authority, the City of London police now has a national remit to tackle serious and complex fraud cases across England and Wales, and to assist other forces in their response to fraud, while a new National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), expected to go live in 2009, will radically streamline the way that the public report fraud to the police. The NFRC will also enable the police to draw together intelligence from separate incidents of fraud and help to form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts for businesses and the public.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings were brought in each year since 1997. [240932]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Human trafficking as dedicated offences was introduced in 2004 with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

While the number of prosecutions since the introduction of this Act are not held centrally by the Home Office there have to date been 92 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation and four for trafficking for forced labour.

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Regulation

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on the Security Industry Authority's feasibility study regarding the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies who operate on private land. [248936]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is close to completing the feasibility study on the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies operating on private land. The SIA will submit the study to Home Office Ministers as soon as it has been completed and approved by the SIA's board.

Internet: Security

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British Standards Institute kitemarks for internet content control software have been issued, and to whom, pursuant to the initiative announced by the Home Office in December 2006; and if she will make a statement. [246842]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Kitemark for filtering software developed by the Home Office and Ofcom and in partnership with BSI, was launched in April 2008. Currently none have been issued, but the promotion of the Kitemark will form part of the agenda for the industry standards working group within the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. The Government fully support the Kitemark and encourage companies to apply for it.

Offensive Weapons

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for, *(b)* convicted of and *(c)* sentenced to prison for knife possession between (i) June and October 2008 and (ii) June and October 2007. [240933]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and given a custodial sentence at all courts for knife possession, from 1 June 2006 to 31 October 2006 and from 1 June 2007 to 31 October 2007 in England and Wales, are in the following table. Data for 2008 are due to be available in the autumn of 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts, found guilty and given immediate custody at all courts, for knife possession[1], England and Wales for the periods 1 June 2006 to 31 October 2006 and 1 June 2007 to 31 October 2007[2,3]

	2006	2007
Proceeded against	3,258	3,288
Found guilty	2,720	2,729
Given immediate custody	499	480

[1] Includes the following offences and statutes:
Having an article with blade or point in public place—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (1) (5) (a) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4 (1).
Having an article with blade or point on school premises—Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139A (2) (5) (b) as added by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 S.4 (1).

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
E and A Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism Programme: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 67WS, on the departmental expenditure limit (2008-09), what the reasons were for the reprofiling of £48 million expenditure for the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism programme from 2008-09 to 2009-10. [247439]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 January 2009]:* The reprofiling of the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism £48 million from 2008-09 ensures that the funds available matches its spending forecast for 2009-10.

Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism is for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [247092]

Mr. Coaker: The budget of the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism over the current CSR period is as shown in the following table:

		£ million
	Resource	*Capital*
2008-09	761	159
2009-10	937	212
2010-11	1,003	167

Police Stations: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations in Essex were operational in each of the last 10 years. [249646]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for Essex Police Authority and the chief constable of Essex, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Horses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to increase the number of mounted police in police forces in England and Wales. [248355]

Mr. Coaker: The number of mounted police in police forces in England and Wales is an operational matter for chief officers, balancing operational needs against the financial cost of maintaining a mounted unit.

Police: Medals

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will consider the merits of changing to 20 years the period of service of award for the Police Long Service Medal. [248428]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The issue of reducing the qualifying period is the subject of an ongoing review and the Home Office will lead a consultation exercise.

Police: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she taken to *(a)* facilitate policing in rural areas and *(b)* develop methods of assessing levels of public safety in rural communities. [248199]

Mr. Coaker: Following consultation we continue to pay the £30 million rural policing grant in the current CSR period (2008-09 to 2010-11) as part of special formula grant, rather than including it in general formula grant. This ensures that police authorities in more rural areas continue to benefit fully from the provision.

The Policing Pledge, which sets out for the public the service that they can expect to receive from the police anywhere in the country, includes a 20-minute response time for emergency calls from rural areas. Neighbourhood policing teams in rural areas have also been given specific guidance from the National Policing Improvement Agency in recognition that the policing needs in rural areas may differ from those in towns and cities.

Police: Standards

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 39WS, on strategic policing priorities, by what means *(a)* a police force, *(b)* its police authority, *(c)* crime and disorder reduction partnerships, community safety partnerships and other local partners and *(d)* local people are to be involved in setting local policing priorities for 2009-10. [243702]

Mr. Coaker: Every police authority is required each year to produce a three-year plan including their local priorities for policing their area. They are required to consider and include crime and disorder reduction partnerships/community safety partnerships strategies and the view of the public obtained under section 96 of the Police Act 1996. How each authority decides to gather and include this information is a decision for them.

Underpinning this, local—neighbourhood—policing priorities are agreed between the neighbourhood policing teams and their local communities. These priorities will be enshrined in the local part of the Policing Pledge and subject to discussion at the monthly public meetings that all teams now hold.

Police: Telephone Services

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have decided to cease using 0800 non-emergency telephone numbers. [248915]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1079W, on the proceeds of crime, how much was received by each police force under the asset recovery incentive scheme in the last year for which figures are available. [241885]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Allocations under the asset recovery incentive scheme for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2008

Police Force	£
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	342,349.01
Bedfordshire Police	108,271.48
British Transport Police	75,082.96
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	145,965.37
Cheshire Constabulary	339,287.90
City of London Police	323,521.34
Cleveland Police	344,290.21
Cumbria Constabulary	182,985.34
Derbyshire Constabulary	322,854.80
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	275,246.94
Dorset Police	326,832.07
Durham Constabulary	88,213.47
Dyfed-Powys Police	103,140.23
Essex Police	76,252.71
Gloucestershire Constabulary	189,915.00
Greater Manchester Police	845,905.36
Gwent Police	128,921.98
Hampshire Constabulary	274,470.19
Hertfordshire Constabulary	228,048.64
Humberside Police	263,446.14
Kent Police	606,669.13
Lancashire Constabulary	585,778.25
Leicestershire Constabulary	519,807.03
Lincolnshire Police	75,134.49
Merseyside Police	1,418,562.24
Metropolitan Police Service	5,078,182.85
Norfolk Constabulary	183,899.71
North Wales Police	197,549.14
North Yorkshire Police	86,178.77
Northamptonshire Police	210,129.59
Northumbria Police	310,179.08
Nottinghamshire Police	217,049.05
Police Service of Northern Ireland	412,502.81
South Wales Police	301,007.35
South Yorkshire Police	453,591.26
Staffordshire Police	459,105.69
Suffolk Constabulary	162,503.09
Surrey Police	289,547.92
Sussex Police	130,726.82
Thames Valley Police	613,974.50
Warwickshire Police	183,926.67
West Mercia Constabulary	309,642.50
West Midlands Police	960,407.41
West Yorkshire Police	422,674.90
Wiltshire Constabulary	167,916.63
Total	19,341,648.02

Proceeds of Crime: Consolidated Fund

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money has been paid into the Consolidated Fund from proceeds of crime in each of the last five years. [249166]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The total net value of criminal proceeds recovered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the last five years is set out in the following table. From 1 April 2006 the Home Office has paid back 50 per cent. of recovered criminal assets to the police and other front-line agencies under the asset recovery incentive scheme. The scheme is designed to reward past performance and drive up future asset recovery activity. The remaining 50 per cent. contributes to core Home Office expenditure priorities, including policing and other asset recovery measures.

Proceeds of crime

	£ million
	Net total recovered
2003-04	54.5
2004-05	84.4
2005-06	96.0
2006-07	125.3
2007-08	135.7

Prostitution

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people selling sex in each of the last five years. [248035]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office consultation Paying the Price: a consultation paper on prostitution, published in July 2004 stated that:

"it has been estimated that there could be as many as 80,000 people involved in prostitution in the UK."

Security: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to publish the costed security plan for the London 2012 Olympics. [249800]

Mr. Coaker: Due to security considerations, the costed security plan for the London 2012 Olympics is necessarily a classified document. As such, the Home Office is considering proposals for publishing an unclassified version later in 2009.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Airwave handsets issued to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency have been lost in each year since their introduction; and how many handsets issued to the Agency have been disabled by the service provider through *(a)* loss, *(b)* breakage and *(c)* other reasons in each such year. [246190]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of Airwave handsets lost since their introduction in 2007 are as follows:

2007: 3

2008: 4

No handsets issued to SOCA have been disabled by the service provider.

These handsets have all been permanently disabled by SOCA in accordance with national standards.

Shoplifting

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded shoplifting offences there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [249615]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information shows that there were 294,282 recorded shoplifting offences in England and Wales in 2006-07 and 290,625 offences recorded in 2007-08, a fall of 1 per cent.

Surveillance: Members

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Wellingborough of 30 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 506-07W, on surveillance: Members, if she will place in the Library a copy of the updated Code of Practice. [250539]

Mr. Coaker: Yes. The Government will shortly be consulting on the proposed amendments to the Code of Practice and will place a copy of the consultation document, when this is published, in the Library. The revised code will then be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure before coming into force.

Theft

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded offences of handling stolen goods there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [249614]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information shows that there were 11,826 recorded offences of handling stolen goods in England and Wales in 2006-07 and 11,227 offences recorded in 2007-08, a fall of 5 per cent.

WALES

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248703]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The amount spent by the Wales Office on reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years are as follows:

Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	£
2005-06	195.90
2006-07	60.00
2007-08	240.00

Digital Technology: Disadvantaged People

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what steps he is considering to facilitate access to digital technologies for disadvantaged groups and individuals; and if he will make a statement. [248878]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The UK Government recently launched their cross-government paper "Delivering Digital Inclusion - An Action Plan for Consultation" which details more than 70 Government actions taking place to advance digital inclusion and future actions being considered by Government to facilitate access to digital technologies for disadvantaged groups and individuals in the annex of the report. The consultation was launched on the 27 October 2008 and finished on the 19 January 2009.

There are significant and untapped opportunities to use technology better on behalf of citizens and communities. These include improved service planning, design and delivery, particularly to address the needs of disadvantaged groups and individuals.

The paper highlights and brings together the activities already happening within the UK to improve access to technology and provide support and training to use information and communication technology (ICT) in order to enhance educational, employment and social outcomes for disadvantaged groups and individuals.

The consultation sought views on both the analysis set out in the consultation paper and on proposals for a new Digital Inclusion Champion supported by an expert taskforce and a research team. Consultation responses are currently being analysed and will be used to inform future work to drive forward digital inclusion across all sectors.

"Delivering Digital Inclusion - An Action Plan for Consultation" is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveringdigitalinclusion

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to establish a strategy to tackle age discrimination and promote age equality in the provision of goods and services *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* within the sectors for which his Department has policy responsibility; and if he will make a statement. [243016]

Mr. McFadden: The forthcoming Equality Bill will enable the Government to make it illegal to discriminate unjustifiably against adults aged 18 and over, because of their age when providing goods, facilities and services. The reforms will apply to all sectors of the economy including those for which BERR has policy responsibility.

BERR aims to have a work force that reflects the diverse community the Department serves. The Department's diversity strategy links into BERR's employment policies and practices; and guidance and training on avoiding all forms of discrimination, including age, is available to all staff.

The Department contractually requires its suppliers and their sub-contractors to adhere to its anti-discrimination policies and broader legislation. The Department will continue to implement emerging best practice in this area.

Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff there were at the Defence Export Services Organisation in July 2007. [247803]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The information is as follows.

Number of staff at the Defence Export Services Organisation in July 2007.

	Number of staff
(a) Civilians	315
(b) Military	157

Not all the units which comprised the Defence Export Services Organisation in the Ministry of Defence transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform under the machinery of government transfer on 1 April 2008. Some units remained in the Ministry of Defence.

Imports: Manufactured Goods

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure that imported goods have not been produced by foreign workers who have been exploited. [245025]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government fully recognise the importance of protecting overseas workers from exploitation.

We fully support the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Decent Work Agenda, which promotes employment, labour standards, social protection and social dialogue; and we actively encourage all ILO member states to improve working conditions and, particularly, to work towards ratifying and implementing the eight ILO core labour conventions, which cover forced and child labour, trade union rights and discrimination in employment.

We also fully support the ILO's Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which are voluntary standards of responsible corporate behaviour. Allegations of breaches of the guidelines by UK companies can be investigated by the UK's National Contact Point.

We also fund the Ethical Trade Initiative, an alliance of businesses, trade unions and charities. This initiative works to secure better conditions for workers in supply chains making products for export to the UK and other countries; for example, workers who make clothes, shoes, toys and food items.

In addition, the EU's special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (GSP+) incentivises economically vulnerable countries to improve their labour standards by allowing preferential access to EU markets if they ratify and effectively implement key international instruments including the eight ILO conventions.

Given the size and complexity of many supply chains, the Government strongly believe that this approach are more practical and effective than a UK-based monitoring system.

Insolvency: Prosecutions

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many prosecutions there have been for trading when knowingly insolvent in each of the last three years. [249093]

Mr. McFadden: Section 458 of the Companies Act 1985 and section 993 of the Companies Act 2006 create the offence of carrying on a business with the intent to defraud creditors or for any fraudulent purpose. Prosecutions for this offence are brought to cover a range of fraudulent activity, including trading while insolvent.

This Department has brought prosecutions in respect of this offence in the following numbers in each of the last complete financial years:

	Number
2005-06	25
2006-07	20
2007-08	16

Note:
These figures refer to charges finalised within the years in question; not numbers of defendants or cases.

Other prosecuting authorities may also have prosecuted using this offence.

ITV: British Sky Broadcasting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will instruct BSkyB to divest itself of its shares in ITV. [244863]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State's final decision on the impact of BSkyB's shareholding in ITV was published on 29 January 2008. This includes his decisions as to the remedies appropriate in this case to address the substantial lessening of competition to which he found the shareholding gave rise. The remedies include the requirement on BSkyB to make a partial divestment of its shares in ITV down to a level below 7.5 per cent. We aim to implement the remedies as soon as practicable. The process has, however, been delayed due to the appeal proceedings brought by BSkyB seeking to overturn the decisions. The Competition Appeal Tribunal's judgment upholding the Secretary of State's decisions was published on 29 September. BSkyB subsequently submitted an application for permission to appeal that judgment.

That application was refused on 4 December. On 18 December, BSkyB submitted a further application for permission to appeal direct to the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effects of BSkyB's continuing retention of shares in ITV on competition and the public interest as it relates to the need to ensure a sufficient plurality of persons with control of media. [244881]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State's assessment of the impact of BSkyB's shareholding in ITV was set out in the final decision document he published on 29 January 2008. This included the decisions that BSkyB's shareholding in ITV had resulted in a substantial lessening of competition in the market for all television but that it did not operate against the public interest as it relates to ensuring a sufficient plurality of persons with control of media enterprises. The decision document also sets out the remedies appropriate in this case, including the requirement on BSkyB to make a partial divestment of its shares in ITV down to a level below 7.5 per cent.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* communications he has had from and *(b)* meetings his Department has had with (i) BSkyB, (ii) News International and (iii) other News Corporation-controlled companies during the last four months; and which of those related to BSkyB's shareholding in ITV. [244882]

Mr. Thomas: My noble Friend, the Secretary of State has had no communications from BSkyB or News International during the period or, to the best of my knowledge, from any other companies controlled by News Corporation. During the period, BERR officials have been in contact with BSkyB about the text of the statutory undertakings we are asking BSkyB to provide to remedy the anti-competitive effects of their shareholding in ITV in accordance with the Secretary of State's final decision on this matter dated 29 January 2008.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter of 14 November 2008 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Brother E. Egan. [247867]

Mr. McFadden: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 January 2009.

North East Regional Development Agency

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 722W, on the Keep Our Future Afloat campaign, to which bodies the North East Regional Development Agency provided funding to be used by the campaign. [242015]

Mr. McFadden: One North East has not provided funding to any bodies on behalf of the campaign which is largely based in the north-west of England.

Overseas Trade

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of trade between the UK and *(a)* Israel and *(b)* Palestine was in 2007-08. [249671]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]*: UK exports of goods to Israel, as recorded in the HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics, were worth £1,243 million in 2007 and £1,088 million in the first 10 months of 2008; UK imports of goods from Israel were worth £1,058 million and £960 million respectively. As published in the ONS Balance of Payments Pink Book, in 2007 UK exports of services to Israel were worth £475 million and UK imports of services from Israel were worth £305 million.

UK exports of goods to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as recorded in the HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics, were worth £876,000 in 2007 and £2,443,000 in the first 10 months of 2008; UK imports of goods from the Occupied Palestinian Territories were worth £958,000 and £901,000 respectively. No figures are available for trade in services.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department left under *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 on such schemes by (y) his Department and its predecessor and (z) each of his Department's agencies. [242258]

Mr. McFadden: The information on staff early departures under voluntary and involuntary schemes, banded according to their salary in their final year, can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(a) The following table shows expenditure on early departures for voluntary and involuntary schemes by BERR, and its predecessor DTI, in each year since 2005-06.

	£
2005-06	6,427,000
2006-07	12,802,000
2007-08	10,348,000

(b)(1) The Department will spend £1,607,000 on early departure schemes in 2008-09.

(b)(2) The Department has no planned expenditure for early departure schemes in 2009-10.

Payments include pension lump sums as well as compensation awards. The Department will always try to deal with staff surpluses by means other than redundancy.

If redundancies become unavoidable, the Department will endeavour to reduce staff by voluntary rather than involuntary means wherever possible.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 20 January 2009:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (208/90) asking how many staff in his Department have left under (a) involuntary and (b) voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 2005-06; how many of them in each case were paid (i) up to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000 in the year before they left; and how much (A) was spent in each of those years and (B) is planned to be spent in (1) 2008-09 and (2) 2009-10 by (Y) his Department and its predecessor (Z) each of his Department's agencies.

As an Agency of BERR, The Insolvency Service has not undertaken any involuntary or voluntary exit schemes since 2005-06 and there are no plans to hold such schemes during 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 20 January 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House has not run an involuntary exit scheme during the period in question. Details of the voluntary exit schemes run in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows:

Pay band	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Up to £25,000	1	43
£25,001 to £50,000	0	11
£50,001 to £75,000	0	0
£75,001 to £100,000	0	0
Over £100,000	0	0

There were no staff exit schemes in 2007-08 and there are no plans for schemes in 2008-09 or 2009-10.

Royal Mail

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps Royal Mail is taking to *(a)* reduce its costs and *(b)* cut its overheads. [249603]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps Royal Mail is taking to improve its quality of service. [249604]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked the chief executive, Adam Crozier, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Street Trading

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department received the final report from Durham university into pedlars and street traders; and when it will be published. [249473]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The final report into street trading and pedlary was submitted to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) on 9 December 2008.

We are aiming to publish the report in full on the BERR website in early February.

Tobacco

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings he and Ministers of his Department have had with *(a)* tobacco companies and *(b)* those working on behalf of tobacco companies in the last three months. [246588]

Mr. McFadden: None.

UK Trade and Investment: Consultants

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the maximum amount is that UK Trade and Investment senior staff can authorise to be spent on a consultant without making a full business case for doing so. [247765]

Mr. Thomas: UKTI procurement guidelines require a business case for any procurement activity which exceeds £500, including consultancy. For amounts, exceeding £10,000, excluding VAT, a formal UKTI business case template must be used.

UK Trade and Investment: Pay

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each UK Trade and Investment management board member received in bonuses in 2008. [247873]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Details of the remuneration package paid to members of the UK Trade and Investment Executive Board in 2008 will be published in the UKTI Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09.

Details of the remuneration packages of board members in 2007 were published in the UKTI Accounts 2007-08 on 21 July 2008. (Stationery Office : HC 851)

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects negotiations on harmonising pay and conditions between former Ministry of Defence staff transferred to his Department and other UK Trade and Investment staff to begin. [247874]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* The negotiations on harmonising pay, terms and conditions for those Ministry of Defence staff who transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform commenced shortly after the transfer date of 1 April 2008.

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation staff have applied for early release under the Ministry of Defence 2008 Early Severance Scheme. [247768]

Mr. Thomas: 29 staff in the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation applied for early release under the MOD 2008 Early Severance Scheme. Two of these staff have moved to posts in other parts of the MOD since their application for early release). Of the 24 staff who accepted the offer, eight will leave by April 2009 and the remaining 16 staff will leave by April 2010.

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation: Consultants

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation spent on external consultants in the last 12 months. [247766]

Mr. Thomas: Over the period 1 January to 31 December 2008, the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation spent £79,000 on external consultants. This expenditure covered the services of a consultant with specialist knowledge, employed to assist the South African authorities monitor Industrial Participation obligations arising from the sale in 2000 of defence equipment. This assistance was provided for in a Declaration of Intent signed by my right hon. Friend, the then Prime Minister, and President Mbeki.

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation: Manpower

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff there were at the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation on 3 January 2009. [247799]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* In April 2008 there were 44 military staff and 109 civilian staff who transferred to the UK Defence and Security Organisation in the UK.

Number of staff at UKTI Defence and Security Organisation on 3 January 2009

	Number of staff
(a) civilian	111
(b) military	47

Note:
In addition some 29 staff transferred from the Ministry of Defence to UKTI DSO posts based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff have left the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation since 2 April 2008. [247800]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* In April 2008 there were 44 military staff and 109 civilian staff who transferred to the UK Defence and Security Organisation in the UK.

Number of staff who have left the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation since 2 April 2008

	Number of staff
(a) Civilian	10
(b) Military	[1]21

[1] Under normal posting procedures.

Note:
In addition some 29 staff transferred from the Ministry of Defence to UKTI DSO posts based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office overseas.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* civilian and *(b)* military staff have joined the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation since 2 April 2008. [247801]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* In April 2008 there were 44 military staff and 109 civilian staff who transferred to the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation in the UK.

The number of staff who have joined the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation since 2 April 2008 are:

	Number
(a) civilian	12
(b) military	[1]24

[1] Under normal posting procedures.

Note:
These numbers exclude some 29 staff who transferred from the Ministry of Defence to UKTI DSO posts based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) overseas. Three staff have since joined FCO on loan from the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation civilian posts were made redundant in the move to Kingsgate House. [247802]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* No civilian posts were made redundant as a result of the move to UKTI (Kingsgate House).

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation: Pay

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation staff last received a pay increase. [247764]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows:

UKTI DSO staff on BERR terms and conditions received a pay rise in September 2008, backdated to 1 August 2008.

UKTI DSO staff who remain on MOD terms and conditions are expected to receive a pay award in February 2009, backdated to 1 August 2008.

All military staff received their pay award on 1 April 2008.

UKTI Defence and Security Organisation: Recruitment

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation civilian posts advertised since 2 April 2008 have attracted no suitable applicants; and how many such appointments were refused by a successful applicant. [247767]

Mr. Thomas: Two civilian posts in the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation have attracted no suitable applicants. Both posts were junior level posts.

No civilian post in the UKTI Defence and Security Organisation has been refused by a successful applicant.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what response she plans to make to the recommendation that more Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund projects should be targeted at disrupting those who promote violent extremism and those who support the institutions where they are active made on page 62 of the report, Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; [249584]

(2) what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendation for increased partnership working with educational establishments, arts and sports providers to deliver the PREVENT strategy made on page 7 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; and if she will make a statement; [249593]

(3) whether her Department plans to undertake research into effective partnership working on the PREVENT strategy as recommended on page 10 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; [249594]

(4) whether she plans to provide further guidance to local authorities on gathering and presenting evaluation evidence on projects funded as part of the PREVENT strategy as recommended on page 10 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; [249595]

(5) what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendation that local authorities should be encouraged to fund more Preventing Violent Extremism projects using mosque-based delivery and electronic and printed materials made on page 10 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; and if she will make a statement; [249596]

(6) what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendation that good practice with respect to Preventing Violent Extremism projects should be shared among local authorities and projects made on page 10 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of Project Activities 2007-08 published on 10 December 2008; [249597]

(7) what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendations that all local authorities and projects should provide a lead name contact responsible for monitoring and evaluation with respect to Preventing Violent Extremism projects made on page 10 of the report Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping Project Activities 2007-08, published on 10 December 2008. [249598]

Mr. Khan: The Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Mapping of project activities 2007-08 was one of a number of reviews over the summer which sought to draw out learning and emerging practice on the delivery of activity to prevent violent extremism. Though each review had a different focus, together they provide a useful package of learning material upon which local partners can draw and which will inform the Government's approach to Prevent.

There are a number of common themes which run through all these reviews. Some of these require action from national Government, some from local partners and many from both. We have ensured wide distribution of the Pathfinder Fund Mapping report to enable local partners to benefit directly from information on the range of Pathfinder projects and how they are contributing to the Prevent strategy. We published "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" on 10 December, which sets out the key strands of learning from the reviews and work already under way to address these key themes. We will continue to develop our response to the reviews throughout the year. A copy of "Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning" has been placed in the House Library and can also be downloaded at:

www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1098129.pdf

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the new Centre of Excellence referred to in her press release of 10 December 2008 entitled Government steps up the fight against extremism, will be set up; how many people it will employ; what support it will provide to whom; what the annual running costs are expected to be; and if she will make a statement. [249592]

Mr. Khan: At the 10 December Prevent 08 Conference the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stated that over the coming months a 'national centre of excellence' would be developed to be up and running in 2009, that any local area can access for practical advice on Prevent.

We are currently working with local and national partners to agree how the centre will operate.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Muslims participate in the initiative that brings together UK and US Muslims referred to in her press release of 10 December 2008 entitled Government steps up the fight against extremism; how they were selected; how often they meet; what they discuss; and if she will make a statement. [249591]

Mr. Khan: The Government, working with the US, supported an initiative which aims to create a network among British and American Pakistani community figures to share experience and information about integration, and to explore ways in which such communities can promote integration and in doing so, increase their resilience to violent extremism.

A group of US Muslims from a range of vocational backgrounds visited the UK in October 2008. They met with counterparts in the UK. The UK participants were volunteers from a range of backgrounds, but with an interest in community integration issues. During the visit the participants also met with young people to discuss these issues. We envisage there being future engagement between the members of the Pakistani communities from the two countries.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East, (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 304-05W, on departmental public relations, which companies were employed during the period; how much her Department spent on each such contract; and on what project each company worked. [249379]

Mr. Khan: Central Office of Information billings (which may include COI admin fees) to this Department and its predecessor in relation to public relations agencies on the COI Framework for the period specified is as follows:

	Department	*Activity*	*Company*	*Total (£)*
2005-06	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	HMO Licensing	Amazon PR	21,928.65
		Local e-gov take-up campaign	Blue Rubicon	64,297.00
Total				86,225.65
2006-07	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	HMO Licensing	Amazon PR	116,392.98
		Local e-gov take-up campaign	Blue Rubicon	117,068.00
	Department for Communities and Local Government	Local e-gov take-up campaign	Blue Rubicon	93,109.83
		Tenancy Deposit Protection	Blue Rubicon	171,719.00
Total				498,289.81
2007-08	Department for Communities and Local Government	Energy Performance in Buildings Directive	COI admin fee	3,400.00
		Tenancy Deposit Protection	Blue Rubicon	36,167.90
Total				39,567.90
Grand total				624,083.36

Fire Services: Finance

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from her Department has been allocated to *(a)* the Fireguard project and *(b)* regional fire control rooms. [248879]

Mr. Khan: Fireguard is a collaborative project between 33 fire and rescue authorities. The procurement was undertaken at their request, and on a self-financing basis, by Firebuy Ltd., the national procurement body for the fire and rescue service, which is sponsored by my Department. The Department itself has not allocated any funds to this project.

The total cost of the FiReControl project is £380 million. To fund local and regional costs of implementing FiReControl, a total of £42 million has been paid to fire and rescue authorities to date and an additional £66 million has been indicated over the remaining two years of the CSR07 period (2009-10 and 2010-11).

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of fire and rescue services' retained duty system; and if she will make a statement. [248671]

Mr. Khan: The retained duty system, which covers 30 per cent. of all firefighters, enables Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide a community based service including fire prevention, protection and emergency response in areas away from main urban centres. I welcome the progress which fire and rescue authorities have made in addressing issues of recruitment and retention, with vacancies falling from over 20 per cent. in 2003-04 to 13 per cent. in 2007-08. The Department will continue to support the Fire and Rescue Service to strengthen the retained duty system.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what implications for retained firefighters she has identified consequent upon implementation of the working time directive. [249898]

Mr. Khan: Implementation of the working time directive, by setting a 48-hour maximum to the working week, would greatly reduce the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full-time for their primary employer. The UK Government therefore place great importance on retaining its opt-out from the

directive, a position that was acknowledged by the European Union Council of Ministers in June when it agreed in the Common Position that it should be retained, and will continue to defend it.

The amendments to the Common Position voted by the European Parliament on 17 December are the latest step in a complex negotiation, the next phase being for the Council of Ministers to consider the amendments, followed by a process of conciliation between both parties, the presidency and the Commission. Officials from my Department will be consulting a range of fire and rescue service stakeholders to ensure that the potential impact is assessed fully; and working with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, which has the UK lead on the working time directive, to inform the ongoing debate and ensure MEPs and EU member states are briefed appropriately.

Housing: Inspections

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were training to become a registered home inspector at the latest date for which figures are available. [244747]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire (Lembit Öpik) on 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1177W. This is the latest date for which figures are available and represents the total number of people registered for home inspector training since its inception in 2004.

Local Government: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what monitoring her Department carries out of the implementation and practice of whistleblowing policies by local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [247816]

John Healey: The Department does not monitor councils' policies on whistle blowing, which are matters for individual councils.

However, on 24 December 2008, we concluded a consultation on introducing a model code of conduct for local authority employees which included a proposed provision that where an employee becomes aware of activities that the employee considers to be illegal, improper or unethical, the employee should report the matter in accordance with the employees rights under the Public Disclosure Act 1998.

We are now considering the responses we have received to the consultation.

Owner Occupation

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of *(a)* the number of (i) homeowners, (ii) homeowners with mortgages and (iii) repossessions that have taken place in the last 12 months and *(b)* the number of repossessions which will take place in the next 12 months (A) in total and (B) as a percentage of the number of mortgaged properties. [249650]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007, based on estimates from the Labour Force Survey there were 14,733,000 owner-occupiers in England of whom 8,228,000 had a mortgage.

According to data from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, at the end of 2007 there were 11,822,000 homeowners with mortgages in the UK. During that year 26,200 repossessions had taken place[1].

The Council of Mortgage Lenders have forecast that there will be around 45,000 (0.38 per cent. of all mortgages) repossessions occurring during 2008 and 75,000 (0.66 per cent. of all mortgages) during 2009[1].

[1] The CML data on mortgages and repossessions include buy to let mortgages (as well as owner-occupier mortgages). Their forecasts are available on their website at:

http://www.cml.org.uk/cml/publications/marketcommentary/109

Social Rented Housing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to provide more social housing in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [249822]

Mr. Iain Wright: In England, over the three years 2008-11, we are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). Around £6.5 billion of this will be directed towards social rented homes.

Of the £8 billion around £170 million is to be used for affordable housing in the North East region. We have not set out funding below regional level. Bids for HCA funds are made on a competitive basis. The HCA will publish quarterly the allocations made as a result of approvals of bids on their website:

www.homesandcommunities.cu.uk

On 2 September we announced a £1 billion market rescue package to increase confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market, building on the previous announcements in May and July. As part of this package, and the pre-Budget report we are bringing forward £550 million in order to deliver up to 7,500 new social homes over the next eighteen months on top of current assumptions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Nature Conservation: British Antarctic Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to protect marine wildlife and promote biodiversity in the British Antarctic Territory. [247700]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards of environmental protection in Antarctica. The UK Antarctic Act 1994 fully implements the 1991 Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty which sets out a framework for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment. The UK is also fully committed to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, the key objective

of which is the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources. In addition to the science and environmental monitoring activities carried out by the British Antarctic survey, the UK also supports a range of specific environmental projects in the British Antarctic Territory to enhance conservation and raise awareness of the Antarctic environment.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support he has made available to those Saharans currently residing in camps *(a)* in Algeria and *(b)* displaced elsewhere in Africa. [248172]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports Western Saharan refugees through its share of the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office's (ECHO) budget, and contributions to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). ECHO provided €10 million in 2008 to support Western Saharan refugees of which the UK share was approximately €140,000. UNHCR continue to provide assistance to Western Saharan refugees with US$7.8 million provided in 2008. DFID does not contribute directly to the UNHCR appeal for Western Saharan refugees, but is the sixth largest donor to UNHCR, providing US$56 million in non-earmarked flexible funding to its annual budget in 2007 and a similar amount in 2008.

Around 90,000 Western Saharan refugees are reported to be living in Algeria; none are reported to be living elsewhere in Africa. Around 600 more are dispersed across other parts of the globe.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247375]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have placed a table in the Library providing details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) aid delivered through UK Civil Society Organisations over the last five years.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Viral Haemorrhagic Disease

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to help alleviate the effects of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [247219]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is funding Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) Belgium's emergency epidemiological survey and response health project that has responded to the current outbreak with the provision of adapted isolation units and specialist staff. With funds from the humanitarian pooled fund (to which DFID provides 50 per cent. of funding), the World Health Organisation (WHO) is providing additional specialised health input. WHO received $6.3 million from the humanitarian pooled fund in 2008.

The WHO Health Actions in Crisis department (WHO/HAC) in Geneva has sent one of their epidemiologists to the region. DFID is providing £1.95 million to WHO/HAC in 2008.

No requests for any further funding have been received by DFID in response to this current Ebola outbreak. DFID DRC will continue to monitor the situation, and any need for funding, closely.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* directly-operated and *(b)* franchised catering outlets his Department provides for staff. [249078]

Mr. Michael Foster: There is a staff restaurant in each of our two UK offices. Both of these are operated under contract by Charlton House Catering Services Ltd.

Departmental Languages

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants in his Department received coaching in a foreign language in the last 12 months; what expenditure his Department incurred in providing such coaching; and in what languages such coaching was provided. [248078]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 317W.

No Minister has received coaching in a foreign language funded by the Department in the last 12 months.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by his Department were made to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in each year from 1997 to 2008; and how many of these were upheld by the ASA in each year. [246654]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) received no complaints about advertisements sponsored or funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in each year from 1997 to 2008.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) of22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, on departmental pay, what the *(a)* total amount paid in bonuses was, *(b)* number of staff who were eligible for a bonuses and received (i) no bonus, (ii) a medium bonus and (iii) a maximum bonus was and *(c)* value of each of the five highest bonuses was; and what process is used to determine the level of bonus. [245700]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table that appears in answer to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, on departmental pay, was based on incomplete data and should have read:

	SCS staff not receiving a maximum bonus	
	Number	*Percentage*
2006-07	67 out of 87	77
2007-08	72 out of 96	75

Department for International Development (DFID) senior civil service (SCS) members are eligible for a non-consolidated bonus award. Bonuses are intended to reward delivery of personal business objectives during the reporting year or other personal contributions to wider organisational objectives. In considering SCS members for bonus, an SCS pay committee takes into account:

performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets;

total delivery record over the year;

relative stretch (i.e. the challenge of the job compared to that of others); and

response to unforeseen events that affected the performance agreement.

DFID paid a total of £504,000 in non-consolidated bonuses to 62 senior civil servants for the 2006-07 reporting year and £641,510 in non-consolidated performance bonuses to 71 senior civil servants for the 2007-08 reporting year.

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of bonuses, awarded to DFID's SCS, in each category in each year:

	Number eligible for bonus	*Number of nil bonuses*	*Number of low bonuses*	*Number of medium bonuses*	*Number of high (maximum) bonuses*
2006-07	87	25	n/a	42	20
2007-08	96	25	10	37	24

The highest bonuses for 2006-07 were all fixed at £12,500. The five highest bonuses for 2007-08 were: £22,700; £20,685; £20,048; £18,422; and £14,612.

The process used to determine the level of bonuses in these years differed. In 2006-07 bonuses were paid at a flat rate. In 2007-08 bonuses were paid as a percentage of base salary.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) of22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, on departmental pay, how many of the staff eligible for bonuses in 2007-08 were based *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [245701]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table that appears in answer to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 992W, on departmental pay, should have read:

	SCS staff not receiving a maximum bonus	
	Number	*Percentage*
2006-07	67 out of 87	77
2007-08	72 out of 96	75

Of the 96 DFID senior civil servants (SCS) eligible, to be considered, for a performance bonus in 2007-08, 68 were based in the UK and 28 were based overseas.

Departmental Recruitment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions his Department has received complaints on staff *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* selection in the last 12 months. [246913]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last year two formal complaints about external recruitment have been made to the head of corporate HR advisory group. Neither complaint was found to be valid.

Departmental Secondment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how long each of the staff on secondment from his Department have been on secondment; and whether there is a maximum permitted length for such secondments. [246890]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table shows the number of Department for International Development (DFID) staff who are currently on outward secondment to other organisations and the length of time they have been on secondment.

There is no maximum permitted length for outward secondments although best practice would be three-five years maximum.

Length of time on secondment	*Number of secondees*
0-6 months	18
6-12 months	11
12-18 months	12
18-24 months	8
24-30 months	6
30-36 months	4
36-42 months	0
42-48 months	4
Over 4 years	4

India Aid: Finance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department is providing to India Aid in 2008-09. [247014]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £270 million for India in the financial year 2008-2009. In addition to this, in the 2008 calendar year, DFID contributed a further £13.2 million through the European Commission.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia; what steps he plans to take to protect food monitors; and if he will make a statement. [248205]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1311-12W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle).

The Department for International Development (DFID) does not take independent action to protect food monitors on the ground.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what aid he is providing to support the process of capacity-building in the build-up to the elections in Sudan as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; [248170]

(2) what assistance his Department is providing to capacity-building projects established in preparation for elections in Sudan in 2009. [248206]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government are working with the international community and Sudanese counterparts to ensure that an acceptable and peaceful process of elections takes place within the Comprehensive Peace Agreement timeline. Capacity building of key institutions and groups is central to this.

DFID is providing grants of over £1.13 million to media and civil society capacity building programmes in 2008 and 2009. In addition, DFID contributed £1.5 million to the UNDP-managed fund for preparatory support to the elections.

The UK has also provided support to a Swedish-based International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance project to build the capacity of political parties, including £550,000 from the British embassy in first phase (2006-08) and £1 million from DFID has been allocated to the next phase.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will assess the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan with reference to the support provided by donor nations. [248171]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The core body mandated to assess CPA implementation is the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC). The UK was instrumental in the appointment of Sir Derek Plumbly as its Chair and participates in the Security, Wealth-Sharing, Power-Sharing and the Transitional Areas sub-committees.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the CPA is an ongoing process. The AEC Plenary meets monthly and brings together representatives of the two parties to the CPA. In July 2008, the AEC conducted a mid-term assessment of CPA implementation. This report is a public document and is available on request.

The Multi Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) (National and South), set up under the auspices of the CPA, are the primary mechanisms for donors to support the reconstruction and development of war-affected regions in Sudan. Both funds are managed by the World Bank, and monitored by an independent agent.

Zimbabwe: Life Expectancy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the average life expectancy of females of child-bearing age in Zimbabwe. [249686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimated in 2006 that the average female life expectancy in Zimbabwe was 34 years of age. This is the most recent estimate. There are no statistics on average life expectancy of women of child bearing age specifically in Zimbabwe. Recent demographic estimates suggest that women of reproductive age have a one in 16 lifetime chance of dying as a result of pregnancy and childbirth.

DFID is providing assistance to support the distribution of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) to over 40,000 people in 2009 of whom at least 55 per cent. are women. In addition, DFID is spending £25 million on reproductive and maternal health care to help women gain access to contraceptives, essential antenatal care, and emergency obstetric care in order to save lives and protect their health and the health of newborns. We are also working with the UN and others to support broader essential health services, bring the country's worst ever cholera outbreak under control and to provide food aid to over five million Zimbabweans.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Crewe Railway Station

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what representations the Crewe Survey of the Duchy has received on the future of Crewe railway station. [248041]

Mr. Byrne: The Duchy of Lancaster has not received any representations on the future of Crewe railway station.

Prostate Cancer

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were diagnosed with prostate cancer in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2003, *(d)* 2004, *(e)* 2005, *(f)* 2006 and *(g)* 2007; and in how many cases in each year the prognosis was that the cancer was terminal. [243167]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 January 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people were diagnosed with prostate cancer in (a) 2001, (b), 2002, (c) 2003, (d) 2004, (e) 2005, (0 2006 and (g) 2007; and in how many cases in each year the prognosis was that the cancer was terminal. [243167]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Table 1 gives the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer in England in (a) 2001, (b) 2002, (c) 2003, (d) 2004, (e) 2005, (f) 2006, the latest available figures.

Information on whether the prognosis was terminal is not available. Whether the cancer was terminal could be indicated by the stage/progression of the disease. The stage data collected is not nationally comparable, and reflects differences in what is meant by "stage" rather than real differences in what clinicians use to classify the patients. The United Kingdom Association of Cancer Registries (UKACR) is investigating what should be counted as a complete stage in an attempt to be able to provide comparable data in the future.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of prostate cancer[1] in England, 2001-06

	Number
2001	27,724
2002	27,878
2003	28,074
2004	30,320
2005	28,886
2006	30,024

[1] Prostate cancer is coded to C61 in the International Classification of Diseases. Tenth Revision (ICD-10)
[2] Based on 2007 boundaries
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Social Enterprises

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many social enterprises were established during 2008. [248219]

Kevin Brennan: The most recent figures suggest that there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. Social enterprises are not, however, defined by a particular legal form and as a result are not required to register with any one body. Information on the number of social enterprises established in any particular year is, therefore, unavailable.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many social enterprises have *(a)* been established and *(b)* ceased operating since 1997. [248220]

Kevin Brennan: The most recent figures suggest that there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. Social enterprises are not, however, defined by a particular legal form and as a result are not required to register with any one body. Information on the number of social enterprises that have been established or have ceased operating is, therefore, unavailable.

Social Enterprises: Finance

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the *(a)* Futurebuilders fund, *(b)* Adventure Capital fund, *(c)* Community Builders fund and *(d)* UnLtd have disbursed to social enterprises and social entrepreneurs since each was established. [248215]

Kevin Brennan: The amount of funding from these organisations specifically allocated to social enterprises is not available. Social enterprises are not defined by a particular legal form and as a result are not required to register with any one body or specifically identify themselves as such. However,

(a) Futurebuilders has disbursed £50 million to over 260 third sector organisations looking to build their capacity to compete for and win public service contracts. Of these organisations, we anticipate that many of these investees will be social enterprises.

(b) The Adventure Capital Fund has disbursed a total of £10,279,749 to date. Many of these will also be social enterprises.

(c) The £70 million Communitybuilders fund is currently procuring a national partner and it is intended that the partner will begin disbursing monies in the summer of 2009. It is anticipated that many of the recipient organisations will be social enterprises.

(d) UnLtd is an independent organisation that provides cash funding, practical support and networking opportunities to around 1,000 social entrepreneurs per year across the UK. The Office of the Third Sector does not fund UnLtd grants. Details of UnLtd grant recipients to date are available in their annual report and accounts

Teenage Pregnancy: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the percentage change in the rate of conceptions among girls aged under *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16 years in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex has been since 2004. [247753]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated January 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the percentage change in the rate of conceptions among girls aged under (a) 18 years and (b) 16 years in (i) Southend and (ii) Essex has been since 2004. (247753)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Conception rate and percentage change in the rate among girls aged under 18 and under 16 for Southend UA and Essex between 2004 and 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are provided in the attached table.

Conception rate[1, 2] and percentage change[3] in the rate among girls aged under 16 and under 18 for Southend and Essex, 2004-06

	2004 rate	*2006 rate*	*Percentage change*
Under 16			
Southend UA	9.4	9.3	-0.3
Essex County	5.6	6.3	13.5
Under 18			
Southend UA	47.4	48.8	2.9
Essex County	30.5	32.5	6.5

[1] Rates are per 1,000 female population aged 13-15.
[2] Rates are per 1,000 female population aged 15-17.
[3] Percentage change is based on unrounded rates.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions has he had with representatives of the voluntary sector on the effect of the current economic situation on their activities. [248007]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 740W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress by the Afghan government in meeting its commitments to provide land for Afghan refugees under the Land Allocation Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [242182]

David Miliband: The Land Allocation Scheme is an ambitious Afghanistan government program designed to distribute intact and uncultivated government land to landless returnees and internally displaced persons for housing. It is intended to provide a long-term solution to a complex problem.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is supporting the Afghanistan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation to strengthen capacity, at national and local levels. Though the scheme is not yet as widespread or effective as the situation requires, according to UNHCR as of June 2008, 32,586 families have received temporary land ownership deeds.

Armed Conflict: Reconstruction

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the development of a more deployable UK civilian capability, as referred to in his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246257]

David Miliband: A Cabinet Office review of the UK's civilian expert capacity was completed last year. The key Departments responsible for delivery of this capacity, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, the Ministry of Defence and the Stabilisation Unit are now taking forward the recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of our deployable civilian capability, both through improving the quality and readiness of deployable civilian experts from current sources and examining the introduction of new processes for identifying and deploying such personnel.

Bosnia: Passports

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have been issued *(a)* Serbian and *(b)* Croatian passports since the Dayton Peace Accord of 1995. [240840]

David Miliband: The Government have not made an estimate of the number of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) who have been issued with Serbian or Croatian passports since 1995. The Bosnian authorities have no formal figures for the number of dual nationals in BiH. BiH has not had a population census since 1991.

British Council: Finance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funding his Department has provided for the British Council's Reconnect initiative in each year to 2010-11. [249541]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 12 January 2008, *Official Report* column 355W.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Burma on the rights of people belonging to opposition groups in that country. [249690]

Bill Rammell: In regular contacts between our embassy in Rangoon and the Burmese military government, we continue to stress the need for all political actors, including Aung San Suu Kyi, the National League for Democracy and other democratic groups, to be allowed to play their full part in shaping the country's future. Most recently, our ambassador expressed the UK's deep concern to the Burmese Foreign Minister about the severe prison sentences handed down to democratic and human rights activists in late 2008.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has repeatedly reaffirmed the UK's commitment to democracy in Burma. In May 2008 under UK chairmanship, the UN Security Council reaffirmed its demand for the regime to start an inclusive political process. We still hold to this demand, and continue to support the UN Secretary-General's efforts to break the political deadlock. We continue to lobby countries in the region to bring pressure on the Burmese regime to reform.

Cuba: Overseas Trade

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Cuba on the terms of the trade embargo between the UK and Cuba. [249214]

Gillian Merron: There is no trade embargo between the UK and Cuba. A number of UK businesses operate in Cuba and our embassy in Havana offers assistance to British companies looking to work there. The UK continues to oppose the US trade embargo against Cuba.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the governments of *(a)* Uganda, *(b)* Rwanda and *(c)* Burundi on compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1807 for the Democratic Republic of Congo. [246295]

Gillian Merron: We have encouraged the governments of Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda to exert tighter controls over their borders to prevent the illegal trade of natural resources and weapons. In particular, we have called on the government of Rwanda to take steps to deter the recruitment activities of illegal armed groups from eastern DRC within their territory. We have called upon the government of Burundi to respond constructively to requests by the UN Group of Experts, which is mandated under UN Security Council Resolution 1870 to investigate the means by which illegal armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo receive funding, weapons and other support.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Rwanda following the report on 12 December 2008 by the UN panel of experts' (S/2008/773), on that report's allegation that the Rwandan government is supporting the rebel group National Congress for the Defence of the People in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [246296]

Gillian Merron: We are committed to help bring about a peaceful solution to the violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and have urged the Rwandan authorities to take a constructive approach to dealing with illegal militias and to curtail support for them from within Rwanda. We continue to press both the Rwandan and DRC governments at the highest levels to respond constructively to the UN Group of Experts' recommendations.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what military training the UK has given to the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2005. [246294]

Gillian Merron: The UK has provided the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) with several training projects since 2005. These include:

a peacekeeping English language project, which has to date trained over 200 students;

training of 20 members of the FARDC as interpreters; and

leadership training for 30 FARDC junior officers by Sandhurst instructors.

Training on Security Sector Reform has also been provided for the FARDC Chief of Staff and senior FARDC officers. In addition, the UK has run several individual courses for FARDC officers at African British Training Centres including:

(a) managing defence in the wider security environment;

(b) collective training;

(c) peace support operations;

(d) managing defence within a democracy.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Military Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has provided assistance to the government of Democratic Republic of Congo on arms stockpile management and weapons import marking. [248686]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), contributing some £70 million this financial year to build a capable and accountable state, reducing violent conflict and its impact. This includes a number of projects designed to promote Security Sector reform. However, we have not provided assistance to the government of the DRC specifically on arms stockpile management or weapons import marking.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Mining

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK-based companies have been involved in the exportation of *(a)* cassiterite, *(b)* coltan and *(c)* wolframite from the Democratic Republic of Congo, as referred to in the report of 12 December 2008 by the UN panel of experts (S/2008/773). [246293]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of a number of UK-based companies involved in mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, although precise details of their activities are not held. Only one—Afrimex, which is involved in the exportation of cassiterite—is referred to by name in the UN panel of experts report.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports proposals to widen MONUC's mandate to include the establishment of border-monitoring teams to check goods entering the Democratic Republic of Congo. [246305]

Gillian Merron: We fully support the mandate of the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), which was renewed by UN Security Council resolution 1856 (2008) on 22 December 2008. The mandate includes provisions for the mission to inspect without notice aircraft and any transport vehicle using the ports, airports and border crossings into North and South Kivu and Ituri. It also requires MONUC to use its monitoring capacities to curtail the provision of support to illegal armed groups derived from the illicit trade in natural resources.

Recent events in the DRC demonstrate that poor governance of natural resources can act as a significant contributing factor to the resurgence of violence. It is important that DRC's mineral wealth is brought under legitimate control, both as a source of much-needed revenue for the state and to restrict financial support to illegal armed groups.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of the IT systems in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. [245386]

Gillian Merron: Currently 83 per cent. of the IT systems in the FCO and its agencies are fully accredited to the Government's security standards. The remaining 17 per cent. is being accredited in parallel to deployment.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of staff have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers; (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones in each year since 1997. [247961]

Gillian Merron: Our records show that since 1997 no members of staff have been investigated, suspended or dismissed for loss of equipment.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy that temporary and permanent employees of his Department employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248412]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) pays staff whom it employs directly on temporary contracts exactly the same rates of pay as permanent members of staff.

Some temporary staff are supplied by agencies. These staff are employed and paid by the agency concerned, which then charges a fee to the FCO. Individual agencies determine the rates of pay for their agency staff.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248711]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses non-consolidated, non-pensionable bonuses to encourage high performance. We pay annual bonuses to staff in the delegated grades (all except senior managers) based on appraisal evidence of annual performance. The highest rating and bonus award is given only where performance has significantly exceeded challenging objectives and may have radically transformed delivery of policy and/or services.

Variable pay (bonus) arrangements for staff in the Senior Management Structure/Senior Civil Service (SMS/SCS) of the FCO follow a framework set centrally for Whitehall Departments by the Cabinet Office.

The total amounts spent by the FCO in the last three years are as shown in the following table:

	£
2006	5,854,853
2007	6,572,028
2008	6,934,909

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* underspend and *(b)* overspend on country budgets in his Department was in the last financial year for which figures are available, broken down by country. [242183]

David Miliband: The underspend and overspend, on administration budgets by country, for 2007-08 are shown in the following table. Programme budgets have not been included as they are not readily broken down by country and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

FCO table of overspends and underspends by country for the year to 31 March 2008

Country	Overspend £	Underspend £
Afghanistan	1,829,169	—
Albania	—	15,794
Algeria	—	247,264
Angola	—	148,090
Antigua	—	1,574
Argentina	39,842	—
Armenia	—	6,400
Australia	444,530	—
Austria	—	6,604
Azerbaijan	—	40,217
Bahrain	31,312	—
Bangladesh	25,914	—
Barbados	22,602	—
Belarus	27,094	—
Belgium	153,654	—
Belize	—	28,650
Bolivia	5,516	—
Bosnia and Herzegovina	13,836	—
Botswana	13,977	—
Brazil	545,055	—
Brunei	—	8,084
Bulgaria	—	133,081
Burma	559	—
Cambodia	27,317	—
Cameroon	17,289	—
Canada	129,046	—
Chile	21,997	—
China	261,156	—
Colombia	256,419	—
Congo (Democratic Republic)	67,617	—
Costa Rica	—	15,183
Croatia	23,143	—
Cuba	40,779	—
Cyprus	53,120	—
Czech Republic	—	106,641
Denmark	18,138	—
Dominican Republic	242,434	—
Ecuador	—	5,132
Egypt	1,066	—
Eritrea	—	9,429
Estonia	42,108	—
Ethiopia	105,325	—
Fiji	—	14,929
Finland	—	20,781
France	876,048	—
Gambia	—	7,184
Georgia	—	49,883
Germany	63,556	—
Ghana	—	217,177
Greece	—	124,721
Grenada	—	9,851
Guatemala	—	39,847
Guyana	79,488	—
Hungary	9,443	—
Iceland	—	12,934
India	—	1,374,592
Indonesia	16,333	—
Iran	—	178,682
Iraq	—	198,174
Ireland	20,997	—
Israel	102,215	—
Italy	335,917	—

FCO table of overspends and underspends by country for the year to 31 March 2008

Country	Overspend £	Underspend £
Ivory Coast	1,356	—
Jamaica	—	60,610
Japan	—	378,801
Jordan	—	93,590
Kazakhstan	29,568	—
Kenya	15,490	—
Kuwait	—	36,753
Latvia	—	14,047
Lebanon	—	177,959
Libya	—	59,087
Lithuania	8,674	—
Luxembourg	8,283	—
Macedonia	—	24,625
Malawi	—	57,301
Malaysia	61,110	—
Malta	7,184	—
Mauritius	1,124	—
Mexico	—	129,524
Moldova	—	1,103
Mongolia	—	132,134
Montenegro	152,457	—
Morocco	34,619	—
Mozambique	—	12,557
Namibia	—	12,374
Nepal	25,684	—
Netherlands	—	183,216
New Zealand	85,101	—
Nicaragua	526	—
Nigeria	—	422,579
North Korea	143,957	—
Norway	40,995	—
Oman	9,571	—
Pakistan	—	292,411
Panama	11,465	—
Papua New Guinea	172,848	—
Paraguay	5,077	—
Peru	—	6,282
Philippines	—	62,912
Poland	5,523	—
Portugal	16,386	—
Qatar	1,800	—
Romania	—	11,106
Russia	—	60,451
Rwanda	—	38,117
Saudi Arabia	—	150,635
Senegal	—	28,808
Serbia	—	296,472
Seychelles	—	60,453
Sierra Leone	56,651	—
Singapore	—	27,444
Slovakia	11,844	—
Slovenia	13,972	—
Solomon Islands	—	930
South Africa	—	159,205
South Korea	6,995	—
Spain	465,605	—
Sri Lanka	—	28,312
St. Lucia	—	1,447
St. Vincent	3,005	—
Sudan	411,054	—
Swaziland	888	—
Sweden	—	13,619
Switzerland	180,156	—
Syria	98,093	—
Tajikistan	—	35,943
Tanzania	—	17,202
Thailand	—	202,030
Trinidad and Tobago	—	117,417
Tunisia	29,117	—
Turkey	176,609	—
Turkmenistan	—	33,440
Uganda	67,240	—
Ukraine	—	93,746
United Arab Emirates	—	147,554
Uruguay	3,490	—
United States	495,966	—
Uzbekistan	—	49,406
Vatican City	198	—
Venezuela	—	8,105
Vietnam	—	24,871
Yemen	106,095	—
Zambia	2,743	—
Zimbabwe	—	17,063

Departmental Rail Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date he last used a train in the course of his official duties. [242610]

David Miliband: I last used a train in the course of my official duties on 12 December 2008, returning from Brussels to London, after attending the European Council.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249144]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally, so to provide an answer to the hon. Member would incur a disproportionate cost.

Falkland Islands: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance his Department plans to provide to the Falkland Islands government to extract oil and gas. [248351]

Gillian Merron: The Government continue to support the Falkland Islands' right to develop their hydrocarbons resources as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister restated in his new year message to the Falkland Islanders.

The development of the sector is primarily a matter for the Falkland Islands government. The new Falkland Islands Constitution makes clear—as did the previous Constitution—that the people of the Falklands have the right to dispose of their natural wealth and resources. The Government have a strategic interest in the way in which progress is made, and will continue to provide guidance and advice to ensure that the Falkland Islands government is able to plan for, and manage, all the challenges and responsibilities that come with a hydrocarbons sector including security, health and safety or socio-economic issues.

Holidays Abroad: Health Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the provision of health care for British citizens who are taken ill whilst on holiday in their countries. [240395]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions of these issues with his European counterparts.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from UK organisations on the provision of health care for British citizens who are taken ill whilst on holiday outside the UK. [240396]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: We have received no representations from UK organisations on the provision of health care for British citizens taken ill while on holiday overseas.

Intelligence Services

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what protocols and procedures govern the sharing of intelligence by the United Kingdom Intelligence Services with the intelligence services of allied countries. [240999]

David Miliband: It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on operational intelligence matters.

International Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on his Department's Global Dialogue Strategy, as referred to on page 18 of his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report; and which 27 target country posts are involved. [240261]

David Miliband: We have begun a dialogue with a number of states on the need to consider whether our current international organisations are best equipped to confront the challenges of the 21st century. The states we have so far engaged are those that play a key role in the existing international system and will have a view on how we can make it more effective in the future.

Jestina Mukoko

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the whereabouts and safety of the human rights activist Jestina Mukoko, Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project; and what representations he has made to the Zimbabwean authorities regarding her disappearance. [246291]

Gillian Merron: Jestina Mukoko, director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project, was discovered in Matapi prison in Harare on 23 December 2008 by Zimbabwe lawyers for human rights, despite official denials that her whereabouts were known. She has since been transferred between other prisons and charged, with nine others, with recruiting persons to undergo training in Botswana in order to commit acts of armed insurgency. The accused claim to have been beaten while in custody and to have been denied access to doctors. Jestina Mukoko's lawyers have filed a separate application in the High Court for those in need of treatment to be taken to hospital. No date has been fixed for this hearing.

The Government, along with EU partners, made representation to the Zimbabwe authorities demanding the release of Jestina Mukoko and other abductees. On 6 December 2008, and with our full support, the French EU presidency issued a statement expressing the EU's deep concern and calling on the government of Zimbabwe to ensure her immediate freedom. This was conveyed to the Zimbabwean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Harare in a démarche by the EU Troika on 8 December 2008 and reaffirmed by the European Council on 12 December 2008. On 19 December 2008 we issued a note verbale to the Zimbabwean ambassador demanding investigations be made as to the location of Ms Mukoko and fellow abductees. We deplore this ongoing abuse of the legal and human rights of political prisoners and urge the restoration of internationally-accepted human rights standards in Zimbabwe.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implementation of the conditions set out in the Ahtisaari plan for Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [242199]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1782W.

Since that date, further progress has been made through the deployment of a police and rule of law mission which will provide assistance to the Kosovan government in policing, justice and customs.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has *(a)* received from and *(b)* made to the government of Serbia on the deployment of the EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [242201]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1204W.

President Tadic confirmed to EU High Representative Javier Solana on 28 November that Serbia intends to support EULEX deployment throughout Kosovo. Given this, there has been no need for further high level representations on this issue. We have remained in close contact with the Serbian authorities at official level following this welcome commitment.

The deployment of EULEX throughout Kosovo is an important step forward in establishing a single rule of law for all Kosovo's citizens, and one which moves it closer on its path towards the EU. A vital ingredient in the success of this is the continuing commitment of Kosovo's government to work with EULEX.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the legal basis is of the European Union's EULEX mission in Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [242204]

David Miliband: The EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) deployed across Kosovo, including in Northern Kosovo, on 9 December. This is in response to an invitation from the government of Kosovo for an EU police and rule of law mission in accordance with the UN Special Envoy's Comprehensive Settlement Proposal. In cooperation with United Nations Mission in Kosovo, EULEX will take on part of the role envisaged in UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) for the international civilian presence, and it accordingly also draws upon the authority of that resolution.

EULEX is established under Title V of the Treaty on European Union. Its mandate is defined by Joint Action 2008/124/CFSP, approved by the European Council on 4 February 2008.

Kosovo: Serbia

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Russian counterpart on the future of Serbian citizens whose homes are in Kosovo. [249212]

Caroline Flint: This issue has not been on the agenda of recent ministerial discussions with Russia. However, My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly raised the importance of ensuring protection of minority rights in Kosovo, including of the Kosovo Serb community, with interlocutors in the governments of both Kosovo and Serbia.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to protect the interests of Serbs within Kosovo. [249213]

Caroline Flint: The Kosovo constitution, which entered into force on 15 June 2008, includes provisions to ensure equal rights for all citizens in Kosovo, in line with the Comprehensive Settlement Proposal of UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari. The Kosovo government has also adopted legislation to implement protection of minority rights, including of the Kosovo Serb community. I have engaged closely with the government of Kosovo to encourage and support continued commitment in this area.

Nigeria: Oil

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to press the Government of Nigeria to clean up oil pollution in the Nigerian Delta region. [247978]

Gillian Merron: The Government continue to raise with the Nigerian authorities our concerns at the ongoing political, security, social and environmental problems in the Niger Delta. A lasting solution will require a systematic approach on security, governance and development. We welcome the fact that President Yar'Adua has made tackling the problems of the Niger Delta a priority, and that he has just established a new Ministry and appointed a dedicated Cabinet Minister to take this work forward. We hope that there will soon be an opportunity for all stakeholder groups in Nigeria to engage in peaceful dialogue on these issues.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of a tri-departmental delivery plan on improving the UK's capability to prevent, manage and resolve conflict and build peace, referred to in his Department's Autumn 2008 Performance Report. [246280]

David Miliband: The tri-departmental delivery plan for Public Service Agreement (PSA) 30: Reduce the impact of conflict through enhanced UK and international efforts, referred to in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Autumn 2008 Performance Report, is a classified document. I am therefore unable to place a copy of this document in the Library.

Rose Kabuye

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the French Government on the case of Rose Kabuye, charged with crimes associated with the Rwandan genocide. [248730]

Gillian Merron: We have not made representations to the French Government regarding the Rose Kabuye case. This is a judicial matter for the French courts, which we hope will be resolved speedily. However, we have continued to encourage France and Rwanda to rebuild their relations and any progress towards a resolution is to be encouraged.

Serbia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on Serbia's proposal for renegotiating the 1999 Kumanovo agreement; and if he will make a statement. [240839]

David Miliband: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has not received a formal request to amend the 1999 Kumanovo Military Technical Agreement (MTA). No action is currently being taken to revise the MTA.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects Ethiopian troops to leave Somalia; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of such withdrawal on Eritrea and other neighbouring states. [249349]

Gillian Merron: Ethiopian troops have now withdrawn from the capital, Mogadishu. According to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) the Ethiopian bases have now been occupied by forces supporting the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, who agreed in November 2008 to establish a Unity Government under the UN-sponsored Djibouti Process. Although the departure of the Ethiopians could risk further worsening the security situation in South Central Somalia, it also offers an opportunity to find a Somali-led political solution to the conflict and may relieve a point of aggravation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. A more stable Somalia would ultimately have a positive impact on the security and prosperity of the region.

St Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings he has had with officials from St. Helena in the last two years. [240872]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any meetings with officials from St. Helena in the last two years.

As the Minister responsible for Overseas Territories, I met Councillor William Drabble during the Overseas Territories Consultative Council in October this year, and the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn), met Councillor Brian Isaacs at the same event in December 2007. Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Government officials are in regular contact with St. Helena officials.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the situation in Darfur. [244988]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the situation in Darfur with Djibril Bassolé, African Union/UN Chief Mediator for Darfur, in London on 15 December 2008, and we are in regular contact with his office. Our ambassador in Khartoum and her staff maintain close contact with all main political groups in Darfur, non-governmental organisations working in the region, and the AU/UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Officials have visited all three states of Darfur in the last three months for meetings with a variety of humanitarian, civil society and political figures.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in *(a)* the Nuba Mountains, *(b)* Abyei and *(c)* northern Sudan; what reports he has received of inter-community tensions; whether he plans to take steps in response to such reports; and if he will make a statement. [244329]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 17 December 2008]:* We monitor intercommunity tensions throughout Sudan through the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the Security Working Group of the Assessment and Evaluation Commission (AEC) and those NGOs we work with on community peace-building and conflict resolution projects.

We monitor southern Kordofan, including the Nuba mountains, and Abyei closely. Our ambassador visited the region in November as chair of the AEC Security Working Group. The group assessed that, although there was no immediate risk of major conflict, tensions in the area remained high and the international community and UNMIS would need to continue to observe the situation closely.

We encouraged the UN to prioritise its resources in high-risk areas including the Nuba mountains and Abyei when the Security Council discussed the Secretary-General's report on Sudan in November.

Trade: Economic Situation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what effect he anticipates the economic downturn will have on the number of business travellers from the UK to Nordic countries. [245412]

Caroline Flint: The Government does not capture statistics on business visitors to Nordic countries so would not be able to anticipate the specific effect of the economic downturn on this group. Some companies will be tempted to spend more time in the market, trying to boost exports, whilst others will respond to the downturn by cutting back on travel to overseas markets.

World War Two: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Kindertransport since July 2008; and if he will make a statement. [247760]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any representations to my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary since July 2008 on the 70th anniversary of the Kindertransport. However, we welcome the commemoration of this event and others of this kind to ensure that we never forget the horrors of Nazi occupation and the holocaust. It is also important to celebrate the humanitarian acts that saved lives and helped refugees to start anew.

Zimbabwe: Diamonds

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the profits accrued from the illegal

diamond trade in Zimbabwe in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proposals the Government has put forward to stop the trade. [246298]

Gillian Merron: There have been reports of an influx of thousands of illegal panners and dealers to the Marange/Chiadzwa diamond field to extract and export diamonds outside the Kimberley Process. There are no accurate data available on the value of such illicit diamond trading, but estimates are that it could run to millions of dollars.

Reports indicate that the military have brutally stamped down on mining activities in the area. Hundreds are reported to have been killed. The use of such extreme force indicates the lengths to which the regime will go to regain control of the diamond fields.

The UK, represented by the EU, is working with Kimberly Process partners and civil society groups to determine the most effective way of resolving the situation.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the political situation in Zimbabwe. [247838]

Gillian Merron: Ministers are in regular contact with EU counterparts to discuss the political and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe. The issue was on the agenda at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in July, September, November and December during the French presidency and has come up in many other contexts. It is once again on the agenda for the General Affairs and External Relations Council later this month.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to monitor the political situation in Zimbabwe. [248109]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* We are following the situation in Zimbabwe very closely, including through our embassy in Harare, as well as our other missions in the region, which continue to monitor the situation. Ministers maintain a keen interest in developments and are regularly briefed on the political and humanitarian situation. We are continuing to work with states in the region and the wider international community to encourage a durable solution.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many jobs have been created by the Building Schools for the Future programme in each year since its establishment; and in which sectors those jobs were created. [248736]

Jim Knight: No data are available on the number of jobs created by the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in each year since its establishment. So far, construction jobs are supported by capital allocations and commitments of £7,617 million to Wave 1 to Wave 6 of the BSF programme. This figure includes both capital grant and the capital value of PFI contracts. A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that have been and will be created across the period of construction of Wave 1 to Wave 6 is 95,000.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many One School Pathfinder projects have been set up by his Department under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and how many of those *(a)* have received formal guidance from Partnership for Schools and *(b)* have had a Partnership for Schools Director appointed to guide the project. [249639]

Jim Knight: There are 39 One School Pathfinder projects. These are not part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The One School Pathfinder programme is a devolved programme that allows local authorities to rebuild one school with the highest level of building need that fits their long term strategic plans for education. The programme allows the local authority an opportunity to set up and test its approach to educational transformation in advance of joining the full Building Schools for the Future programme.

We believe that local authorities are best placed to make local decisions, and so expect authorities to manage single school projects themselves. Partnerships for Schools do not manage the One School Pathfinder programme and has not produced guidance.

Charities

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which charities his Department has provided funding of £100,000 or more in each of the last three years; and how much was given to each charity. [242085]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The information requested can only be collated at disproportionate cost.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much the most recent Child Support Agency computer update cost; [240288]

(2) what the Child Support Agency caseload was on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the caseload is expected to be once the update of the Agency's IT systems is fully implemented. [240289]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 January 2009:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the most recent Child Support Agency computer update cost [240288]; and

You also asked what the Child Support Agency caseload was on the most recent date for which figures are available; and what the caseload is expected to be once the update of the Agency's IT systems is fully implemented. [240289]

The most recent update to the Child Support Agency's computer systems was successfully implemented on 27th October 2008. This update supported the repeal of Section 6 to the Child Support Act 1991, which removed the compulsion from parents with care in receipt of income based benefits to make a claim for child maintenance through the Child Support Agency. The cost of this upgrade to our system is estimated at around £7m however final invoices have yet to be received from our IT suppliers.

At the end of September 2008, the latest date that figures are available, the Agency had a total of 1,339,600 cases registered as live across the CSCS and CS2 computer systems. The Agency also had a total of 44,000 live clerical cases of which a significant number will be included in the cases shown as registered on the computer systems. These are cases which are being progressed clerically but remain registered on the computer systems.

The repeal of Section 6 allows all parents to choose the child maintenance arrangements that best suit their circumstances, whether private arrangements or through the statutory maintenance schemes. The size of the future caseload of the statutory maintenance schemes is therefore dependant on the choices that parents make. Information on the size of the Agency's caseload is published each quarter in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics and the next edition containing information on the impact of the recent changes is due to be published at the end of January 2009.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the ContactPoint database to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [249435]

Beverley Hughes: We announced, in August 2008, that ContactPoint would be deployed from January 2009. We are on track to deploy the first phase from that date and will continue to keep Parliament informed of key developments.

Children: Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he expects the Child Health Strategy to be published. [249009]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Child Health Strategy is being developed jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health and will set out the Government's long-term strategy to support children's and families' health. It will be aimed at the NHS, local government and partnership organisations, and build on the work already being delivered through Every Child Matters and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. We hope to be in a position to publish the Child Health Strategy in February.

Children: Protection

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many established child protection officer posts there are in each local authority; and how many child protection officers each local authority employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [248164]

Beverley Hughes: Although the number of child protection officers in each local authority is not collected by the Government, the NHS Information Centre does collect and publish data relating to the number of social care staff directly employed by councils. The number of child protection officers is collected as part of this larger group of social care staff, although child protection officers and senior child protection officers are recorded in different categories (as follows). However, it is not possible to split child protection officers from these groups.

Child protection officers are part of the category 2.35—child protection, family placement, juvenile/youth justice workers. Senior child protection officers are part of the category 2.31—assistant team managers/senior social workers.

Table 1 shows the total headcount of staff for each local authority in England under these two categories as at 30 September 2007.

Table 1: SSDS001 return, 2007, total staff headcount by local authority, staff in operational divisions/not establishment-based

Rounded number

	'2.31' Assistant team managers/senior social workers	*'2.35' Child protection, family placement, juvenile/youth justice workers*
England	4,515	5,245
Barking and Dagenham	30	35
Barnet	60	15
Barnsley	25	[1]—
Bath and N. E. Somerset	15	[1]—
Bedfordshire	30	5
Bexley	25	[1]—
Birmingham	95	305
Blackburn	15	20
Blackpool	15	30
Bolton	25	30
Bournemouth	15	30
Bracknell Forest	10	15
Bradford	70	0
Brent	15	30
Brighton and Hove	95	75
Bristol	0	[1]—
Bromley	75	25
Buckinghamshire	20	35
Bury	15	20
Calderdale	15	10
Cambridgeshire	60	40
Camden	40	35
Cheshire	0	30
City of London	[1]—	0
Cornwall	30	0
Coventry	20	90
Croydon	70	30
Cumbria	35	105

Table 1: SSDS001 return, 2007, total staff headcount by local authority, staff in operational divisions/not establishment-based

Rounded number

	'2.31' Assistant team managers/senior social workers	*'2.35' Child protection, family placement, juvenile/youth justice workers*
Darlington	[1]—	[1]—
Derby	[1]—	[1]—
Derbyshire	15	25
Devon	[1]—	55
Doncaster	25	70
Dorset	35	45
Dudley	35	75
Durham	20	40
Ealing	50	20
East Riding	15	35
East Sussex	55	110
Enfield	25	30
Essex	265	15
Gateshead	15	20
Gloucestershire	40	40
Greenwich	35	35
Hackney	35	25
Halton	0	[1]—
Hammersmith and Fulham	50	5
Hampshire	30	35
Haringey	60	20
Harrow	10	15
Hartlepool	5	[1]—
Havering	25	0
Herefordshire	10	15
Hertfordshire	90	160
Hillingdon	40	30
Hounslow	20	40
Isle of Wight	20	25
Isles of Scilly	0	0
Islington	45	25
Kensington and Chelsea	20	20
Kent	230	195
Kingston-upon-Hull	0	90
Kingston-upon-Thames	25	10
Kirklees	25	60
Knowsley	20	[1]—
Lambeth	25	[1]—
Lancashire	20	0
Leeds	15	145
Leicester	40	45
Leicestershire	30	20
Lewisham	40	10
Lincolnshire	45	30
Liverpool	[1]—	75
Luton	25	15
Manchester	65	80
Medway Towns	15	25
Merton	10	30
Middlesbrough	15	35
Milton Keynes	10	30
N. E. Lincolnshire	15	25
N. Lincolnshire	10	20
Newcastle upon Tyne	15	50
Newham	15	65
Norfolk	80	45
North Somerset	10	30
North Tyneside	10	20
North Yorkshire	40	120
Northamptonshire	70	20
Northumberland	[1]—	55
Nottingham	5	[1]—
Nottinghamshire	45	10
Oldham	5	35
Oxfordshire	95	50
Peterborough	25	45
Plymouth	20	0
Poole	25	10
Portsmouth	10	5
Reading	20	20
Redbridge	25	20
Redcar and Cleveland	[1]—	15
Richmond upon Thames	[1]—	15
Rochdale	10	55
Rotherham	15	30
Rutland	[1]—	0
Salford	[1]—	65
Sandwell	15	55
Sefton	25	25
Sheffield	10	20
Shropshire	25	30
Slough	20	20
Solihull	35	25
Somerset	10	50
South Gloucestershire	50	5
South Tyneside	15	105
Southampton	30	20
Southend	25	35
Southwark	105	30
St. Helens	10	20
Staffordshire	60	90
Stockport	10	45
Stockton-on-Tees	5	25
Stoke-on-Trent	60	35
Suffolk	35	0
Sunderland	30	150
Surrey	90	15
Sutton	35	25
Swindon	25	10
Tameside	15	0
Telford and Wrekin	20	35
Thurrock	30	20
Torbay	10	[1]—
Tower Hamlets	25	40
Trafford	20	10
Wakefield	20	15
Walsall	30	10
Waltham Forest	25	25
Wandsworth	60	35
Warrington	15	[1]—
Warwickshire	10	[1]—
West Berkshire	10	20
West Sussex	100	80
Westminster	30	55
Wigan	20	35
Wiltshire	25	40

Table 1: SSDS001 return, 2007, total staff headcount by local authority, staff in operational divisions/not establishment-based

	Rounded number	
	'2.31' Assistant team managers/senior social workers	*'2.35' Child protection, family placement, juvenile/youth justice workers*
Windsor and Maidenhead	10	20
Wirral	20	85
Wokingham	5	15
Wolverhampton	0	0
Worcestershire	40	55
York	0	0

[1] Values of less than five.

Note:

This table is based on the job title as defined by the individual local authority. Therefore staff with child protection responsibilities may be recorded elsewhere within the return under a different job title.

Source:

SSDS001 Return, 2008

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been made subject to child protection plans in Doncaster in each of the last five years. [248762]

Beverley Hughes: The numbers of children who have been made subject to child protection plans in Doncaster, in each of the last five years, are shown in table 9a of the following Statistical First Release:

Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—year ending 31 March 2008 .

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Children's Centres: Rotheram

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on children's centres in Rotherham Metropolitan borough council area in the last 12 months. [247818]

Beverley Hughes: As part of our commitment to reduce the burden on local authorities, we no longer request quarterly financial returns for Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Revenue Grant. Consequently, information on total amounts spent on Sure Start Children's Centres during the last 12 months will not be available until after October 2009 when we should receive the 2008-09 audited reports from local authorities.

However, for the 2007-08 financial year, Rotherham metropolitan borough council declared expenditure of £3,884,703 and £2,301,390 on children's centres revenue and capital respectively.

Note:

1. The £3,884,703 for children centres (revenue) declared by Rotherham metropolitan council includes £1,702,534 spent on Sure Start local programmes.

Children's Centres: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding children's centres in Warrington will receive in 2009-10. [250576]

Beverley Hughes: The funding allocated for children's centres for Warrington local authority in the next financial year (2009/10) are:

	£
Revenue	2,498,955
Capital	568,502

This represents an increase of 29 per cent. for revenue and 100 per cent. for capital on the previous year (2008/09).The allocations quoted are included within the wider Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant Main Revenue and Main Capital funding for Warrington of £3.9 million and £1.27 million respectively. Funding in these blocks is not ring fenced and the authority has the freedom to decide how much to spend on each area supported by the grant, in line with local priorities.

Class Sizes: Reading Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in the Reading Local Education Authority area have class sizes of more than *(a)* 50 pupils, *(b)* 40 pupils and *(c)* 30 pupils. [249402]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table.

Classes as taught[1]: Schools in Reading local authority by class size—position in January 2008—Reading local authority area

School name	*Number of classes of size 31 to 40 taught by one teacher*	*Number of classes of size 41 or more taught by one teacher*
Caversham Primary School	1	0
Oxford Road Community School	1	0
The Ridgeway Primary School	1	0
Katesgrove Primary School	1	0
Micklands Primary School	1	0
St. John's CofE (Aided) Primary School	1	0
St. Mary and All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	1	0
Reading Girls' School	1	0
Redlands Primary School	2	0
St. Michael's Primary School	2	0
Upcroft Primary School	2	0
Manor Primary School	2	0
Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	2	0
Churchend Primary School	3	0
St. Anne's Catholic Primary School	3	0
English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School	3	0
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre	3	0
Park Lane Primary School	5	0

Classes as taught[1]: Schools in Reading local authority by class size—position in January 2008—Reading local authority area

School name	Number of classes of size 31 to 40 taught by one teacher	Number of classes of size 41 or more taught by one teacher
George Palmer Primary School	5	0
Kendrick Girls' Grammar School	6	0
Prospect College	8	0

[1] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the Census in January.
Source:
School Census

Connexions Service

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of interventions by the Connexions service involved face-to-face contact in the latest period for which figures are available. [249238]

Beverley Hughes: The latest information available is that during the period April 2007 to March 2008, 64 per cent. of interventions by the Connexions service involved face to face contact.

Connexions Service: Mobile Phones

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much it cost to establish the Connexions text message service. [248883]

Beverley Hughes: We do not have the information requested. Text message services form part of a range of helpline services on offer from Connexions Direct, including telephone, e-mail and one-to-one webchat. The budget for Connexions Direct at the time of establishing the service was £5 million for the year.

Connexions Service: Telephone Services

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much it cost to establish the Connexions phone service; and what the budget for the service was in 2008. [248882]

Beverley Hughes: We do not have the information requested. Telephone services form part of a range of helpline services on offer from Connexions Direct, including text message, e-mail and one-to-one webchat. The budget for Connexions Direct for the 2008-09 financial year is £5 million and projected spend for the 2008-09 financial year is £4,838,517.

Connexions Services: Mobile Phones

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the budget for the Connexions text message service was in 2008. [249403]

Beverley Hughes: We do not have the information broken down as requested. Text message services form part of a range of helpline services on offer from Connexions Direct, including telephone, e-mail and one-to-one webchat. The budget for Connexions Direct for the 2008-09 financial year is £5 million and projected spend for the 2008-09 financial year is £4,838,517.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for the education maintenance allowance for 2008-09 are being processed. [248602]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The helpline, assessment and payment function for EMA has transferred to Capita from 28 November 2008. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Every Child Matters Scheme: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Government has given to support the Every Child Matters scheme. [249456]

Beverley Hughes: Every Child Matters (ECM) is the Government's approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19. The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being. How this work is being taken forward is set out in the Children's Plan.

The work of ECM covers the whole of children's services and as such spans the work of Department for Children, Schools and Families, which has a projected annual budget of £53 billion for 2008-09, £55 billion for 2009-10 and £59 billion for 2010-11.

Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps the Government has taken to help local authorities make provision for extended school activities; [249458]

(2) how much funding the Government has given to Coventry City Council's Children and Families Education Service to fund after-school clubs; [249455]

(3) what steps the Government has taken to help local authorities provide after-school activities in schools; [249457]

(4) what steps the Government has taken to support local authorities in providing summer activities for children and young people. [249460]

Beverley Hughes: £1.3 billion is being made available to local authorities between 2008 and 2011 to support the continuing development of extended services.

This significant investment will enable all schools to offer access to a core offer of extended services by 2010 which includes the provision of before and after school activities (combined with child care in primary schools) from 8 am to 6 pm and during school holidays where there is demand. For the current financial year (2008-09), Coventry local authority is receiving funding of £1.47 million to support the development of extended services. For 2009-10, this will increase to more than £2.12 million. Allocations for 2010-11 have not yet been finalised.

In addition to funding, local authorities and their schools are supported by Government appointed delivery partners who advise on developing and delivering sustainable extended services. The lead delivery partner is the Training and Development Agency.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of eligible pupils passed five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last 10 years. [248827]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent[2]*

	Eastbourne parliamentary constituency[3]	*Eastbourne local authority district*	*England[4]*
2007/08[5]	67.1	66.3	65.3
2006/07	63.9	62.6	61.4
2005/06	57.8	58.2	59.0
2004/05	55.7	57.0	56.3
2003/04	52.0	50.5	53.7
2002/03	46.0	43.5	52.9
2001/02	43.6	41.5	51.6
2000/01	45.4	42.6	50.0
1999/2000	47.4	46.6	49.2
1998/99	48.7	46.1	47.9
1997/98	44.5	43.6	46.3

[1] Figures for 2005/06 onwards are based on pupils at the end of Key Stage 4. Data for previous years are based on pupils aged 15-years old at the start of the academic year.
[2] From 1997/98 includes GNVQ equivalences and from 2003/04 other equivalences approved for use pre-16.
[3] Pupils attending maintained schools located in Eastbourne constituency.
[4] Figures for England include all schools.
[5] Figures for 2007/08 are based on revised data.

Gifted Children: Disadvantaged

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Teach First advocates are being used to mentor disadvantaged gifted and talented students from state schools in *(a)* London, *(b)* the Black Country and *(c)* Greater Manchester. [247405]

Jim Knight: The Teach First Advocates scheme, part of the City Challenge Gifted and Talented Education Strand (City GATES), is now called the Higher Education Access Programme for Schools (HEAPS). HEAPS has been piloted in London and will continue there. It is being rolled out in Greater Manchester from this academic year (2008/09) and will be extended to the Black Country in academic year 2009/10.

Languages: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of pupils who gained a GCSE in *(a)* German, *(b)* French and *(c)* Spanish were educated in (i) the state sector and (ii) the independent sector in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by individual grade. [243853]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number of pupils at the end of KS4 who achieved a GCSE in French, German and Spanish by grade in 2008.

	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Total entries*
Maintained schools									
French	9,559	18,490	27,249	39,372	28,458	14,842	6,707	2,520	148,162
German	4,176	8,433	12,883	18,766	11,179	4,684	2,195	974	63,566
Spanish	4,701	6,506	7,763	10,986	8,170	4,113	2,141	907	45,658
Independent schools									
French	8,482	7,139	5,753	4,625	1,686	386	59	12	28,179
German	2,256	2,114	1,514	1,174	354	66	12	7	7,503
Spanish	3,964	3,165	1,945	1,457	623	125	34	6	11,330

Percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 who achieved a GCSE in French, German and Spanish by grade as a proportion of total entries

	Percentage								
	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Total entries*
Maintained schools									
French	53	72	83	89	94	97	99	100	148,162
German	65	80	89	94	97	99	99	99	63,566
Spanish	54	67	80	88	93	97	98	99	45,658
Independent schools									
French	47	28	17	11	6	3	1	0	28,179

Percentage of pupils at the end of KS4 who achieved a GCSE in French, German and Spanish by grade as a proportion of total entries

	Percentage								
	*A**	*A*	*B*	*C*	*D*	*E*	*F*	*G*	*Total entries*
German	35	20	11	6	3	1	1	1	7,503
Spanish	46	33	20	12	7	3	2	1	11,330

Languages: Teachers

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary school teachers of *(a)* Mandarin, *(b)* Urdu, *(c)* German, *(d)* Italian and *(e)* Japanese (i) there are in maintained secondary schools and (ii) qualified in the last year for which data are available. [249230]

Jim Knight: Information on secondary school teachers and the subjects they are teaching is collected in the Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS). The most recent survey was carried out in February 2007, and achieved a sample of 14,137 teachers in 327 schools. Results were grossed up to provide national estimates of the number of secondary school teachers in England by subject area.

The SSCSS survey estimated the following numbers of teachers delivering at least one period a week of the requested subjects[1]:

Number of secondary school teachers of languages

Subject	*Count of teachers*
German	6,600
Languages/Other Languages	1,000
Italian	280
Japanese	160
Mandarin/Chinese	50
Urdu	50

[1] The table may include some double counting, as teachers are counted once under subject they are teaching. For example, a teacher who teaches Italian and German will be counted once under each subject. The table gives national estimates.

Note:
Data are rounded to nearest 10

Source:
Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey, 2007

The table includes a category of teachers who teach 'Languages/Other Languages'—we do not know which language(s) these teachers are delivering and it is possible that it may include any of the subjects listed in the table. In addition, care should be taken when interpreting national estimates based upon a sample survey.

The number of teachers gaining QTS in Modern Foreign Languages in 2005-06, the most recent year for which data are available, was 1,260 (excluding those on employment based routes). We do not know which specific languages these teachers qualified in.

National Curriculum Tests

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the pilots in schools trialling new ways to assess, report and stimulate progress throughout the key stages; and if he will make a statement. [247232]

Jim Knight: The Making Good Progress pilot is a two year pilot, due to run until July 2009. It is being independently evaluated by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The interim report on the first year of the pilot was published on the 18 December 2009 and a copy was sent to the chairman of the Select Committee for Children, Schools and Families. A copy will be placed in both Libraries.

A final evaluation report which will make an assessment about the effectiveness of the pilot and its elements over the full two years is due to be published in the autumn of 2009.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what percentage of 11 year olds achieved level 4 or above in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in 2008; [247471]

(2) what percentage of 14 year olds achieved level 5 or above in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* ICT in 2008. [247472]

Jim Knight: The percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in the KS2 English and mathematics tests in 2008 are:

English: 81 per cent.

Mathematics: 78 per cent.

These figures are based on provisional data.

The Department's key stage 2 provisional tests results for 2007-08 were published on 5 August 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000804/index.shtml

The percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in the KS3 English and mathematics tests in 2008 are:

English: 73 per cent.

Mathematics: 77 per cent.

The Department's key stage 3 provisional tests results for 2007-08 were published on 12 August 2008 and can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000805/index.shtml

Key stage 3 ICT results are based only on teacher assessments. The 2008 key stage 3 teacher assessments data, including ICT, will be published in February 2009.

However, compulsory testing of pupils at key stage 3 has been ended.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, stated, on 16 December, *Official Report*, column1002, that he had decided not to proceed with collating and publishing key stage 3 performance tables at the school-level for 2008, as to do so would place a disproportionate burden on secondary schools when we are no longer proceeding with KS3 tests.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in how many schools less than 50 per cent. of pupils achieved level 5 or above in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* science in 2008. [247473]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, announced on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 673, that secondary schools will no longer be required to enter pupils for national tests at the end of key stage 3.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, stated, on 16 December, *Official Report*, column 1002, that he had decided not to proceed with collating and publishing the key stage 3 achievement and attainment tables for 2008 as to do so would place a disproportionate burden on secondary schools in the light of the decision to abandon national tests at the end of key stage 3.

However, key stage 3 school-level test data will be available from the Department on request once we have completed processing the data. Currently, we expect this to be in March 2009.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he expects primary schools to receive the results of the 2009 national tests; and if he will make a statement. [249438]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the administration of the key stage 2 (KS2) national curriculum tests. QCA advise that marked scripts and results will be returned to schools by 7 July 2009.

Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools are in the National Challenge; and if he will make a statement. [249436]

Jim Knight: The final 2008 GCSE results show that the number of schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils attain five higher grade GCSEs including English and Maths has fallen to 440 compared to 631 last year and 783 two years ago.

The 2008 figure represents about 14 per cent. of maintained secondary schools compared with an equivalent proportion of over 50 per cent. in 1997. In addition, the National Challenge is providing support for some schools which are above the 30 per cent. floor target in order to secure or consolidate their performance. Some of these schools were in the National Challenge in 2007, but are continuing to receive support. Others are schools which were identified by their local authority because, although they are not in the National Challenge, they would benefit from the types of support it can offer to help them to raise attainment further.

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what private finance initiative contracts have been entered into relating to school building and refurbishment projects since 2001. [248569]

Jim Knight: To date, 111 PFI deals have been signed since 2001 (19 of these PFI deals have been signed through the Building Schools for Future programme).

Schools: Capital Investment

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which local authority areas those school capital projects which will receive brought forward capital expenditure are located. [249114]

Jim Knight: We are awaiting bids and further information from some authorities, and are in correspondence with others. We will publish revised allocations as soon as allocations are confirmed.

Schools: Islam

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on female Muslim teachers and teaching assistants wearing the full burka while interacting with children in schools. [249515]

Jim Knight: It is for the employer, as part of the terms and conditions of employment agreed with employees, to establish an appropriate dress code relevant to the individual setting taking into account the requirements of the post and equality and diversity matters. The Department for Children Schools and Families has not issued any guidance on this matter.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether funding for the increased number of school repairs to help create jobs under the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works will come from the budget of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [248735]

Jim Knight: Generally, repairs are of a revenue nature and are financed by revenue funding.

Local authorities are being offered an advance of capital funding from the financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10 to (a) make capital improvements at an earlier date, and (b) support local jobs. The advances of capital funding will be made from allocations devolved to local authorities, also voluntary aided schools, and in some instances from primary capital funding. A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that will be created in 2009-10 is 10,000. The Building Schools for the Future programme is unaffected.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of jobs that will be created by increased funding for school repairs in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010 and *(c)* 2011 under the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works; and what proportion of those jobs he estimates will go to British workers. [248748]

Jim Knight: Generally, repairs are of a revenue nature and are financed by revenue funding.

Local authorities are being offered an advance of capital funding from the financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10 to (a) make capital improvements at an earlier date (b) support local jobs. The advances will be repaid in

2010-11 by way of a corresponding reduction in funding, and will not affect total allocations in the spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that will be created in 2009-10 is 10,000. There are no estimates on the number of jobs that will go to British workers.

Anne Main: *To ask the* Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to increase capital expenditure on a school repairs programme as part of the Government's plans to create up to 100,000 new jobs through public works. [248751]

Jim Knight: Generally, repairs are of a revenue nature and are financed by revenue funding.

Local authorities are being offered an advance of capital funding from the financial year 2010-11 to 2009-10 to (a) make capital improvements at an earlier date (b) support local jobs. The advances will be repaid in 2010-11 by way of a corresponding reduction in funding, and will not affect total allocations in the spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11. A tentative estimate of the number of jobs that will be created in 2009-10 is 10,000.

Planned capital allocations during this period amount to some £21.9 billion, and include some of the largest school building programmes ever undertaken.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on a school's staffing levels of designating it as a national challenge school; and if he will make a statement. [248634]

Jim Knight: Over £50 million has been allocated in this academic year to support national challenge schools. This includes funding for extra teachers and teaching assistants, where schools and local authorities have identified the need. Further details will be made available in local authority plans, which will be published by local authorities today.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact on school performance of being placed in the national challenge; and if he will make a statement. [248636]

Jim Knight: The final GCSE figures for 2008 show that there has been a substantial fall in the number of schools below the floor target of 30 per cent. 5A*-C including English and Maths, from 631 in 2007 to 440 in 2008. This reduction is a reflection of the hard work of staff and pupils and the success of our policies for raising standards. The National Challenge is accelerating progress by providing each school below the 30 per cent. threshold and those at risk with a National Challenge adviser and a bespoke package of support, targeted at the particular needs of each school.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when Paul Gray's term as Interim Director of Children's Services in Doncaster is due to expire. [248778]

Beverley Hughes: Dr. Paul Gray was recruited by Doncaster Metropolitan borough council in April 2008 to take up the position of Director of Children's Services (DCS) on an interim basis. It is for the council and Paul Gray himself to agree the length of Paul Gray's term as DCS in Doncaster.

Teachers: Part-time Employment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the reasons are for the time taken to publish official guidance for the implementation of the provisions of the 2008 School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document in relation to the pay and working time of part-time teachers. [248549]

Jim Knight: The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document 2008 (STPCD) came into force on 1 September 2008, Section 3 of which comprises statutory guidance including guidance on part-time teacher remuneration and working time. The statutory provisions of the STPCD and the statutory guidance were the subject of statutory consultation.

Additional non statutory guidance on the new part-time arrangements was made available on Teachernet on 8 October. Following the identification of a technical error within the STPCD, this guidance was withdrawn on 4 November 2008 and replaced on 13 January 2009.

Teachers: Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the Answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1638W, on teachers' pensions: resource accounting and budgeting, for what reason the teachers' pension scheme resource accounts were not published between the 2008 summer recess and the end of the 2007-08 session; and when he plans to publish them. [249008]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office referred to some overpayments made to pensioners of public sector pension schemes, including the Teachers' Pension Scheme in a written ministerial statement on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 111WS.

The Teachers' Pension Scheme resource accounts contain reference to these overpayments. The decision was taken not to publish the accounts until such time as we had sufficient information to be able to inform the pensioners. Critical to this decision was the need to avoid unnecessary public concern among the vast majority of teacher pensioners who were entirely unaffected, but who would not have known that had a general announcement been made. Letters were sent to affected pensioners on 15 December and the statement, formally notifying Parliament of the overpayments, was made on 16 December .

The accounts will now be laid before 31 January.

Teachers: Primary Education

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school teachers have been employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* nationwide in each year since 1997. [249466]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full-time equivalent teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary schools in Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office Region and England, January 1997 to 2008.

Full-time equivalent qualified and unqualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary schools—coverage: Jarrow constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office Region and England

Years: January 1997 to 2008

	Jarrow constituency[1]	South Tyneside[2]	North East[2]	England[2]
1997	360	700	10,400	191,660
1998	350	690	10,280	190,070
1999	350	690	10,310	191,120
2000	350	640	10,190	193,100
2001	360	680	10,350	194,960
2002	340	660	10,440	197,370
2003	330	630	10,210	197,430
2004	320	630	10,170	196,640
2005	310	610	10,030	196,270
2006	310	590	10,070	198,190
2007	300	580	10,020	197,100
2008	300	570	9,920	198,090

[1] Source: School Census
[2] Source: Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Teachers: Resignations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers left the profession after less than 10 years service in each of the last 20 years. [247484]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of full and part-time qualified teachers employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England who left the profession with less than 10 years recorded service, in each year 1987-88 to 2006-07, the latest information available.

Teachers are counted irrespective of whether they were leaving service permanently.

Full and part-time[1] qualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in England who left the profession[2] with less than 10 years service, in each year 1987-88 to 2006-07

	Nursery/primary	Secondary
2006-07[3]	7,090	8,370
2005-06[3]	7,980	9,220
2004-05	7,940	8,450
2003-04	8,250	8,280
2002-03	9,000	8,510
2001-02	7,290	7,560
2000-01	7,540	7,710
1999-2000	7,410	7,150
1998-99	7,560	7,000
1997-98	6,680	6,020
1996-97	5,820	5,490
1995-96	6,030	6,210
1994-95	5,840	5,470
1993-94	5,930	7,330
1992-93	6,460	6,010
1991-92	6,990	6,600
1990-91	7,870	8,180
1989-90	6,500	8,280
1988-89	6,220	8,900
1987-88	5,990	9,280

[1] 10-20 per cent. of all part-time teachers who were in service at the beginning of each year shown may not be included in the data.
[2] Teacher is no longer in service in the English maintained schools sector and may be teaching in FE/HE sectors or in other countries.
[3] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Training

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places are available in the graduate teacher programme in this year; how many places he expects to be available under the programme in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [247285]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of places available on the graduate teacher programme for the current academic year and the number expected to be made available for future years for which allocations have been made.

Allocation of new initial teacher training places via the graduate teacher programme 2008-09 to 2010-11, England

	Places
2008-09	4,660
2009-10	4,270
2010-11	4,260

Notes:
1. These allocations have been set by TDA and are based on overall targets set by DCSF.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Young People: Crime

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to discourage young people in deprived areas from becoming associated with criminal activity. [249847]

Beverley Hughes: The Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008, set out the Government's plans for tackling offending by young people. It detailed our plans for a 'triple track' approach of tough enforcement, non-negotiable help and support, and early intervention and prevention. It also states our ambition to reduce the rate of young people entering the criminal justice system by one fifth by 2020. This is supported by close to £100 million over the next three years, in addition to the existing investment in children's and youth services, to support local authorities in making inroads into youth crime locally. This funding is weighted towards areas facing higher levels of crime, antisocial behaviour, fear and deprivation.

The Youth Crime Action Plan builds on the already significant investment committed to programmes aimed at preventing young people's involvement in criminal activity in deprived areas. Key examples of this are the almost £700 million we are spending in 2008-11 to help young people take part in structured positive activities and to improve facilities in deprived areas through the Positive Activities for Young People and Myplace programmes.

In addition, the Youth Justice Board are investing £33 million per year through Youth Offending Teams to deliver targeted prevention programmes such as youth inclusion programmes (YIPs), youth inclusion and support panels (YISPs) and parenting programmes. These are focussed on areas of highest need and many programmes operate in some of the most deprived areas of England and Wales.

Young People: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government is taking to improve understanding of financial matters amongst teenage mothers and young people in the *(a)* North East, *(b)* Tees Valley district and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [249651]

Beverley Hughes: Young people should have a planned and coherent programme of personal finance education, so that they leave school with the skills and confidence to manage their money effectively. This is being provided through the new 'economic well-being and financial capability' strand of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education, which was introduced into all secondary schools in September 2008. In addition, there are opportunities within a number of subjects across the curriculum to learn about financial matters, including citizenship, mathematics, business studies and enterprise education.

We are also funding the My Money Programme, which has an established network of support for local authorities through regional consultants—including the north east—who are building capacity among local authorities to support schools in delivering personal finance education.

Positive parenting education is available to teenage mothers and pregnant teenagers in the north east region as part of local provision to engage them in learning. This would generally include financial education covering issues such as managing money on a budget and avoiding debt.

Youth Justice Unit

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what funding his Department has provided for the Youth Justice Unit in the last 12 months; and what funding it plans to provide for the Unit in the next three years. [247262]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has provided the Youth Justice Board with £33,961,201.52 for the financial year April 2008 to March 2009.

Final budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be allocated at the beginning of the financial year.

JUSTICE

Approved Premises

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many bail hostels were opened in Eastbourne in each of the last five years; what the location is of each; and if he will make a statement; [248821]

(2) what criteria are employed in selecting which offenders to place in a bail hostel; what account is taken of potential risk to the public in those criteria; and if he will make a statement; [248822]

(3) what steps his Department takes to consult local authorities on the location of bail hostels; and if he will make a statement; [248823]

(4) what mechanisms are in place for his Department to oversee the operation of Clearsprings; and if he will make a statement; [248824]

(5) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that members of the public are made aware of the identity and location of bail hostels in their area; and if he will make a statement; [248825]

(6) how many bail hostels are planned to be opened in each constituency in the next five years. [248826]

Mr. Hanson: I take all of the hon. Gentleman's questions to relate to the accommodation and support service provided by ClearSprings. The service provides small houses and flats which are the private rented homes of those receiving the service. There are currently none in Eastbourne. If a property becomes available for this service in his constituency I will write and inform him.

Those who are sex offenders or who are charged with sex offences, and those who have committed arson of buildings in the past 10 years, are excluded from the service. Sentenced prisoners who are not eligible for home detention curfew are excluded. In addition, ClearSprings will not accept those whom they deem to pose an unacceptable risk to the public, to other service users or to ClearSprings' staff.

That ClearSprings will accept a person does not guarantee that person's release. The courts decide whether a defendant can be bailed. In making its decision the court will consider the risk of offending and the extent to which the ClearSprings service would mitigate that risk. The court makes its decision in knowledge of any previous convictions and submissions by the prosecution and the defence. The court can impose other conditions, such as electronic monitoring. Decisions to release prisoners on home detention curfew are made by prison governors. All those applying for home detention curfew are risk assessed before release and probation assess the suitability of the proposed address for the individual offender.

ClearSprings is contractually obliged to consult local authorities, probation and the police, inviting them to comment on the suitability of the proposed location of a property to be leased for this service.

The service is managed regionally by NOMS Regional Offender Managers and Directors of Offender Management, who have monthly operational meetings and quarterly review meetings about regional performance. Additionally there are monthly contract meetings between a NOMS director and ClearSprings senior management.

We do not disclose the private addresses of defendants or offenders. Neighbours are provided with details to enable them to contact ClearSprings staff in the event of any concerns about behaviour.

Regional Offender Managers identify the requirement for this service by town, not constituency. A list of towns where properties were expected to be needed was published on 21 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1653W. A list of the constituencies with properties currently provided was published on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 911W.

Cannabis: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the potential use of penalty notices for disorder for cannabis possession offences. [248654]

Maria Eagle: We have received representations from the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Magistrates Association on the potential use of penalty notices for disorder for dealing with cannabis possession offences.

Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many charges have been brought under provisions of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. [248656]

Maria Eagle: The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008 and only applies to offences committed after that date.

Charging data are not held by the Ministry of Justice. Prosecution data are normally provided in lieu. Court proceedings data for 2008 will not be available until the autumn of 2009.

Courts: Fees and Charges

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fee charged to local authorities on receipt of an application for care proceedings to the courts is. [249903]

Bridget Prentice: The fee to issue an application under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 is fixed at £2,225. Two additional fees may be charged at a later stage of the process if the stages are required. A full list of fees for family proceedings is set out in the Family Proceedings Fees Order 2008, this order came into force on 1 May 2008.

Debt Collection: Regulation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government plans to take to improve regulation of bailiffs in the next 12 months. [248317]

Bridget Prentice: As detailed in the response to Consultation—Regulation of Enforcement Agents dated 18 March 2008 the preferred option for regulation of the industry, for those enforcement agents who are not Crown Employees, is by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The SIA has produced a business case on the way forward, which will be reviewed and final decisions taken in February 2009.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many special advisers were employed in his Department at each pay band on 30 November 2008; and what his Department's total expenditure on special advisers was in 2007-08. [243568]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 870W.

The Government are committed to publishing an annual list detailing the number and costs of special advisers. Information for 2007-08 was published by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248707]

Mr. Wills: Reward and recognition schemes within the Ministry of Justice are partly implemented through the payment of 'special' or 'small' bonuses to staff. These bonuses are paid in the form of an 'in year' bonus, paid to recognise exceptional achievements during the performance year. Reward and recognition is also implemented through the organisation of team awards and events, loyalty awards and locally purchased gifts or vouchers.

The figures are presented separately for staff previously on former DCA terms and conditions and by staff in the public sector Prison Service (NOMS). The figures for staff previously on former DCA terms and conditions prior to 2007-08, exclude payments to former magistrates courts staff. They also exclude staff in the Tribunals Service who joined former DCA on 1 April 2006 from other Government Departments about whom information is not available prior to 2007. The figures do not include any 'year-end' bonuses as these are paid separately to the reward and recognition budget.

The senior civil service (SCS) are also not included in these figures as they receive bonuses at 'year-end' and these are not paid through the reward and recognition budget.

Reward and recognition payments (excluding 'year end' bonuses) awarded during the past three years to staff previously on former DCA terms and conditions (not SCS)

Awarded in financial year	*Total amount awarded (£)*
2005-06	467,753
2006-07	594,169
2007-08	[1] 2,348,520

[1] Reflects increased staff complement through the inclusion of staff on former MCS terms and conditions and those who joined former DCA from the Tribunals Service.

Reward and recognition payments (excluding 'year end' bonuses) awarded during the past three years to staff previously in the public sector Prison Service (NOMS):

Awarded in financial year	*Total amount awarded (£)*
2005-06	817,302
2006-07	1,681,914
2007-08	2,665,212

The payment of these 'in-year' bonuses, which are non-consolidated and non-pensionable, recognises exceptional commitment and performance by individuals as part of the Department's reward strategy. The other elements of the reward and recognition scheme (such as trips, team events and loyalty awards) also serve this function. Such payments are a cost-effective means of encouraging and rewarding exceptional performance.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to consult the relevant trades unions on *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* planned reductions in that budget for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [247071]

Mr. Straw: Planning work has been under way since September 2008 to determine how the Ministry of Justice will live within its spending review settlement, secure £1 billion of savings by 2010-11 and improve performance levels. We have agreed a revised consultative framework with the unions and have held regular meetings with them throughout this period, with the next planned meeting at the corporate level provisionally scheduled for 22 January 2009; we are awaiting confirmation of departmental trade union side availability.

We have now completed the process of due diligence which has enabled us to set budgets for business groups for 2009-10. These have been published in the MOJ Corporate Plan on 19 January, a copy of which together with other performance and efficiency related communications to staff will be shared with the unions ahead of wider circulation. The Corporate Plan will also be available in the Library of the House. Budgetary allocations will be discussed with the unions at our next meeting.

Following issue of the Corporate Plan, business groups will work in earnest to develop their own business plans. These plans will address in detail how the Department will meet the performance and efficiency challenges. Going forward and under the provisions of the Consultative Framework, consultation will take place with the unions at a local level or, when appropriate, at a corporate level.

The recent pre-Budget report contained an announcement of an additional £5 billion value for money saving to be delivered in 2010-11 across the public sector. Decisions have yet to be made as to how those savings will be allocated between Departments but once this is clear we will need to consider the implications for us. This means it will be a little while before we can publish figures for that year. Once they have settled, we will share again details of the allocations with union colleagues.

Legal Aid Scheme

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of reducing the interest rate applied to statutory charges for legal-aided clients. [248682]

Mr. Malik: The Department is currently considering the merits of altering the interest rate applied to the statutory charge.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times the interest on Legal Services Commission charges has been reviewed and changed to reflect the economic climate in the last five years. [248341]

Mr. Malik: The statutory charge interest rate has been reviewed once in the last five years. The rate was changed in 2005.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have had a Legal Services Commission legal aid charge postponed and attached to their property after a family proceeding in the last three years. [248342]

Mr. Malik: At 31 March 2008, there were 8,253 open statutory charges that had been postponed and attached to a property after a family proceeding between 2005-06 and 2007-08. Each statutory charge relates to a case rather than a person.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plan to reduce the interest rate applied to legal aid charges to the Legal Services Commission to reflect Bank of England interest rate reductions. [248345]

Mr. Malik: The Department is currently considering the merits of altering the interest rate applied to the statutory charge.

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many *(a)* former Probation Service and *(b)* former Prison Service staff by grade are working in the Financial Management Unit under the auspices of the Chief Operating Officer at the National Offender Management Service; [248461]

(2) how many former *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* Prison Service staff of each grade are working in the (i) Office of Information and Technology, (ii) Office of Financial Control and Accountancy, (iii) Office of Shared Services, (iv) Commercial and Competitions Unit, (v) Audit and Corporate Assurance Office, (vi) Strategy and Effectiveness Group, (vii) Programme and Project Services Group and (viii) Procurement Group under the auspices of the Director of Finance and Performance at the National Offender Management Service; [248462]

(3) how many former *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* Prison Service staff of each grade are working in the (i) Estates Planning and Development Group under the auspices of the Director of Capacity Programme and

(ii) Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group under the auspices of the Director of Commissioning and Operational Policy at the National Offender Management Service; [248463]

(4) how many staff of each grade working in National Offender Management Service headquarters previously worked for the *(a)* Probation Service and *(b)* Prison Service; [248464]

(5) how many former *(a)* Probation Service staff and *(b)* Prison Service staff of each grade are working in the office of the (i) Chief Operating Officer, (ii) Finance and Performance, (iii) Human Resources, (iv) the Capacity Programme, (v) Commissioning and Operating Policy, (vi) the office of the Director of Offender Health, (vii) the office of National Commissioning under the auspices of the Chief Operating Officer and (viii) the office of Performance Delivery under the auspices of the Chief Operating Officer at the National Offender Management Service. [248465]

Mr. Malik: Information on the number of former probation and prison staff that are now employed by each directorate, headquarters group and the National Offender Management Service Headquarters broken down by grade, is contained in the following tables.

The information includes a number of staff (792) who are employed in the units specified who were neither former Prison Service or Probation Service staff. These staff were previously employed in the former NOMS HQ.

The new NOMS HQ was formed from all staff from the National Probation Directorate and Prison Service Headquarters, as well as staff from the former NOMS HQ. Inevitably the majority were former Prison Service staff. This is because the Probation Service headquarters was significantly smaller as many staff are employed in probation boards and trusts. What matters is that all employees in NOMS HQ recognise that they are now working for a new agency and whatever their past employment history they are focused on public protection and reducing re-offending through integrated offender management.

National Offender Management Service Headquarters Staffing: As at 31 December 2008

		Prison Service			
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior Civil Service*	*Senior Manager*	*Manager*	*EO and Equiv*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	1	—
	Other Groups/Units	1	1	—	—
Capacity Programme total		1	1	1	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	2	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	2	—	—
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	—	1	16	15
	Internal Communications	—	—	4	6
	Race Equality Action Group	1	5	17	1
	Other Groups/Units	1	5	7	5
Director General Total		2	11	44	27
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	1	6	18	7
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	1
	Financial Control and Accountancy	1	5	21	9
	Information and Communication Technology	1	16	28	13
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	1	30	252	287
	Procurement	1	7	17	8
	Programmes and Project Management Group	—	—	—	1
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	1	7	20	3
	Other Groups/Units	2	20	80	61
Finance and Performance Total		8	91	436	390
High Security Directorate Total		2	23	46	18
HR Total		7	77	105	28
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	11	91	214	42
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	2	—
	Performance Delivery	—	1	1	—
	Public Protection Unit	—	—	1	2
	Other Groups/Units	2	26	55	14
Chief Operating Officer Total		13	118	273	58
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning, Women and Young Peoples Group	3	21	38	12
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	—	20	59	8
	Offender Employment Skills & Services Group	1	11	53	8
	Operational Policy Unit	—	2	3	2

National Offender Management Service Headquarters Staffing: As at 31 December 2008

		Prison Service			
Directorate	*Organisation*	*Senior Civil Service*	*Senior Manager*	*Manager*	*EO and Equiv.*
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	1	5	7	4
	Other Groups/Units	2	9	13	3
Commissioning and Operational Policy Total		6	68	173	37
Grand total		39	391	1,078	558

		Prison Service			
		AO/AA and Equiv.	*OSG and Officer Grades*	*Other and Industrial*	*Total*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	—	1
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	2
Capacity Programme total		—	—	—	3
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	—	—	2
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	—	—	2
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	5	—	—	37
	Internal Communications	1	—	—	11
	Race Equality Action Group	2	1	—	27
	Other Groups/Units	3			21
Director General Total		11	1	—	98
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	10	10	—	52
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	1
	Financial Control and Accountancy	1	—	—	37
	Information and Communication Technology	—	—	—	58
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	340	112	12	1,034
	Procurement	—	—	4	37
	Programmes and Project Management Group	1	—	—	2
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	2	6	—	39
	Other Groups/Units	59	1	42	265
Finance and Performance Total		413	129	58	1,525
High Security Directorate Total		25	32	—	146
HR Total		20	14	—	251
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	137	79	377	951
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	—	2
	Performance Delivery	—	—	—	2
	Public Protection Unit	—	1	—	4
	Other Groups/Units	9	16	1	123
Chief Operating Officer Total		146	96	378	1,082
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning, Women and Young Peoples Group	3	10	—	86
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	14	2	—	103
	Offender Employment Skills & Services Group	11		1	85
	Operational Policy Unit	—	—	—	7
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	5	—	—	22
	Other Groups/Units	8	1	1	37
Commissioning and Operational Policy Total		41	13	2	340
Grand total		656	285	438	3,445

		Probation			
		Senior Civil Service	*Senior Manager*	*Manager*	*EO and Equiv.*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—

		Probation			
		Senior Civil Service	*Senior Manager*	*Manager*	*EO and Equiv.*
Capacity Programme total		—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	—	—	—
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	—	—	—	—
	Internal Communications	—	—	—	—
	Race Equality Action Group	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Director General Total		—	—	—	—
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	—	—	—	—
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	—
	Financial Control and Accountancy	—	—	—	—
	Information and Communication Technology	—	—	—	—
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	—	—	—	—
	Procurement	—	—	—	—
	Programmes and Project Management Group	—	—	—	—
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Finance and Performance Total		—	—	—	—
High Security Directorate Total		—	—	—	—
HR Total		1	6	7	3
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	6	25	18	18
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	—	—
	Performance Delivery	—	—	—	—
	Public Protection Unit	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	1	6	2	3
Chief Operating Officer Total		7	31	20	21
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning, Women and Young Peoples Group	—	—	—	—
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	—	—	—	—
	Offender Employment Skills & Services Group	—	—	—	—
	Operational Policy Unit	—	—	—	—
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	—	—	—	—
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	—
Commissioning and Operational Policy Total					
Grand total		8	37	27	24

			Probation			
		AO/AA and Equiv.	*OSG and Officer Grades*	*Total*	*Former NOMS HQ*	*OMMS HQ Total*
Capacity Programme	Estates Planning and Development	—	—	—	30	31
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	87	89
Capacity Programme total		—	—	—	117	120
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Offender Assessment and Management Group	—	—	—	21	23
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	3	3
Commissioning and Operational Policy total		—	—	—	24	26
Director General	Briefing and Casework Unit	—	—	—	1	38
	Internal Communications	—	—	—	—	11
	Race Equality Action Group	—	—	—	2	29
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	7	28
Director General Total		—	—	—	10	106

		Probation				
		AO/AA and Equiv.	OSG and Officer Grades	Total	Former NOMS HQ	OMMS HQ Total
Finance and Performance	Audit and Corporate Assurance	—	—	—	24	76
	Commercial and Competitions Unit	—	—	—	46	47
	Financial Control and Accountancy	—	—	—	12	49
	Information and Communication Technology	—	—	—	44	102
	Phoenix Shared Service Centre	—	—	—	1	1035
	Procurement	—	—	—	5	42
	Programmes and Project Management Group	—	—	—		2
	Strategy and Effectiveness Group	—	—	—	1	40
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	57	922
Finance and Performance Total		—	—	—	190	1715
High Security Directorate Total		—	—	—	2	148
HR Total		1	—	18	14	283
Chief Operating Officer	Area Offices, ROMs, DOMs and Area Teams	11	5	83	1	1035
	Office of National Commissioning	—	—	—	70	72
	Performance Delivery	—	—	—		2
	Public Protection Unit	—	—	—	177	181
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	12	132	267
Chief Operating Officer Total		11	5	95	380	1557
Commissioning and Operational Policy	Commissioning, Women and Young Peoples Group	—	—	—	7	93
	Interventions Group and Substance Misuse	—	—	—	31	134
	Offender Employment Skills & Services Group	—	—	—	6	91
	Operational Policy Unit	—	—	—	3	10
	Safer Custody and Offender Policy Group	—	—	—	3	25
	Other Groups/Units	—	—	—	5	42
Commissioning and Operational Policy Total					55	395
Grand total		12	5	113	792	4350

Note:
Staff have been allocated as either Prison Service, Probation Service or former NOMS HQ based on their unit immediately prior to the creation of the new NOMS HQ. No account is taken of experience before that, either in the Prison Service or Probation Service.

Offences Against Children: Convictions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of *(a)* child abuse and *(b)* murdering a child in each of the last five years. [248763]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons aged 18 and over convicted at all courts for offences relating to child abuse from 2003 to 2007 in England and Wales can be viewed in the following table. As there is no specific offence of "child abuse", statistics are only provided where the victim can be identified as a child from the description of the offence. Child abuse can be covered by a number of offences, including the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 which came into force on 21 March 2005.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of defendants aged 18 and over convicted at all courts for offences relating to child abuse and child murder in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

		Found guilty				
Statute	Offence description	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5	Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable person	0	0	0	2	6
Children and Young Persons Act 1933 Sec 1.	Cruelty or neglect of children	488	537	476	487	486
Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 27	Abandoning children under 2 years	1	0	0	2	1

Number of defendants aged 18 and over convicted at all courts for offences relating to child abuse and child murder in England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Statute	Offence description	Found guilty 2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a female aged under 16	239	261	219	207	227
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.1	Rape of a male aged under 16	23	21	22	13	19
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5	Rape of a female child under 13 by a male	0	4	43	59	70
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.5	Rape of a male child under 13 by a male	0	0	3	17	14
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.7	Sexual assault of a female child under 13	0	25	139	192	216
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.8(1)(2)(1)(3), S.10(1a,b,ci)(3), S.9(1a,b,cii)(2), S.9(1a,b,cii)(3), S 10(1,a,b,c(ii))(2), S.10(1,a,b,c(ii))(3)	Sexual activity involving a child	0	20	113	175	170
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S16(1ei,2-5), S16(1eii,2-5), S17(1ei,2-5), S18(1fi,2-5), S19(1ei,2-5), S17(1eii,2-5)	Abuse of a position of trust: Sexual activity with children	0	3	14	16	15
Common Law. Offences against the Person Act 1861 Sec 1, 9, 10.	Murder of infants under 1 year of age	4	4	4	7	6
Infanticide Act 1938 S1(1).	Infanticide	0	0	2	1	1
Total		755	875	1,035	1,178	1,231

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 S.5 came into force on 21 March 2005.
[4] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.
Source:
OCJR—E & A: Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the de minimis £200 threshold for recording political donations contained in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 would be now if it had been indexed to *(a)* the gross domestic product deflator and *(b)* average earnings since its introduction. [249081]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) received Royal Assent in the final quarter of 2000. Using that as the starting point and the third quarter of 2008 as the end point for the comparison, £200 in 2000 would now be worth £245 if indexed to the gross domestic product deflator. If indexed to whole economy average earnings, £200 in 2000 would now be worth £269.

As I indicated in a previous answer on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 518W, the Government will consider whether it is appropriate to raise the £200 threshold for recording donations contained in the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, and we are open to representations on this point.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 22 January 2009

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Government Policy Statements

5. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on ensuring that statements on significant developments in Government policy are made to the House. [250015]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. and learned Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues when deciding whether an oral statement should be made to announce Government policy. This is done against the general principle set out in the ministerial code that when Parliament is in session, the most important announcements of Government policy should be made in the first instance, in Parliament, and taking into account the importance of the issue and the other business before the House.

The hon. Gentleman may wish to know that there were 88 oral statements last Session, more than one every other sitting day, and already this Session there have been 14 statements in just 18 sitting days.

Programme Motions

6. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of arrangements for programming of Bills; and if she will make a statement. [250016]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend has made no formal assessment of the operation of programming, but it has a number of advantages, including greater certainty about the timing of debates on specific areas of a bill and the timing of bills.

The introduction of programming is one of a number of recent reforms to the legislative process such as pre-legislative scrutiny and evidence-taking public Bill committees.

Governance of Britain Green Paper

7. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Leader of the House what progress has been made on the proposals in the Governance of Britain Green Paper which fall within her area of responsibility. [250017]

Chris Bryant: The House has agreed proposals for regional select and Grand Committees and we expect the committees to be nominated soon. In response to the Modernisation Committee's recommendations on revitalising the Chamber, we have introduced topical questions and debates.

Government Bills

8. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Leader of the House if she will review the proportion of House of Commons time allocated to Government Bills. [250018]

Chris Bryant: In 2006-07, the last Session for which published figures are available, the House sat for a total of 1,118 hours and 52 minutes. It spent 298 hours and 11 minutes on Government Bills, around a quarter of the total.

This does not include time spent in Committee off the floor of the House, nor on pre-legislative scrutiny of draft Bills for future Sessions.

This compares with around 188 hours on private Members' business, around 17 per cent. of the total sitting time, and 118 hours and 35 minutes on Opposition business, around 10 per cent. of the total.

Members' Expenses

9. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Leader of the House what assessment she has made of public opinion on arrangements for the publication of information on hon. Members' expenses. [250019]

Chris Bryant: The Government brought forward proposals to exempt information about payments made to hon. Members from the provisions of the Act in the belief that they would command general support in all parts of the House. When it became clear that they did not, we withdrew the proposals.

We are still proposing a new publication scheme, with more categories of voluntary publication than ever before, and a rigorous system of audit and assurance of hon. Members' allowances.

John Mann: To ask the Leader of the House (1) what discussions she has had with other hon. Members in advance of her decision to propose the exemption of hon. Members from provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to claims for expenses; [250204]

(2) how many letters she has received from hon. Members requesting exemption or partial exemption from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; [250205]

(3) which external bodies she consulted on her proposal to exempt hon. Members from provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to hon. Members' claims for expenses. [250381]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend has frequent private communications with Members from all parts of the House on a range of issues relating to her ministerial responsibilities.

No external bodies were consulted about the tabling of the draft Freedom of Information (Parliament) Order 2009.

Ministerial Statements

Andrew Selous: To ask the Leader of the House what recent discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on the criteria to be used in deciding whether an announcement should be made by means of an Oral Statement. [250014]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. and learned Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues when deciding whether an oral statement should be made to announce Government policy. This is done against the general principle set out in the Ministerial Code that when Parliament is in Session, the most important announcements of Government policy should be made in the first instance, in Parliament, and taking into account the importance of the issue and the other business before the House.

Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions in the last 12 months Ministers in her Office used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700. [249146]

Chris Bryant: None. The situation described has not arisen. We aim to publish as much information as possible and would consider providing an answer, despite it exceeding the disproportionate cost threshold, if it was deemed to be in the public interest.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what expert advisers have been commissioned by her Office since its inception; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the adviser so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246966]

Tessa Jowell: No expert advisers have been commissioned by my Office.

Departmental Pay

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make it her policy that temporary and permanent employees of her Office employed at the same grade receive the same hourly rate of pay. [248406]

Tessa Jowell: Both temporary and permanent staff are placed on the appropriate pay band for their grade. The same bands apply equally to permanent and temporary staff.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date the relocation of Thornton Fields railway sidings was completed. [249794]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority completed construction of the new sidings at Orient Way in May 2008. This was announced on 7 July 2008. The completion of Orient Way allowed work to begin early on the clearance of the Thornton's Field site. That in turn was completed on 31 October 2008.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what date the contract to construct the velodrome for the London 2012 Olympics was awarded. [249798]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority selected the British company ISG Interior Exterior in May 2008 for the Velodrome contract, with the contract being signed on 10 June 2008. ISG will set up on the Olympic Park site next month and the project remains firmly on track.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Listed Buildings

Mr. Hunt: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many church buildings are listed. [250272]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church of England is responsible for approximately 13,000 listed buildings. This represents about 45 per cent. of all the grade I listed buildings in England.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport over what period the data was collected which underlies Figure *(a)* 1.1, *(b)* 1.2 and *(c)* 1.3 in his Department's publication, UK Air Passenger Demand and carbon dioxide forecasts. [250393]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The period over which the data underlying Figures 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of 'UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts 2009' were collected is set out in Chapter 2 of the same report, with further detail in Annexes A-D.

Box 2.2 (p. 16) explains that the forecast shown in Figure 1.1 is based on data from the period 1984-2004. Page 26 explains that the airport choice model used in producing the forecast shown in Figures 1.2 and 1.3 is based on cross-sectional data for 2005.

Figure 1.3 illustrates the forecasting model's success in predicting movements in passenger demand since 2005.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue has been generated by tolls on the Dartford-Thurrock crossing in each year since its opening. [249979]

Paul Clark: For the period of the Extension Agreement—between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2003—the Highways Agency records show annual revenue of £68,363,698.02. Records of annual revenues before this date are not held centrally by the Department for Transport.

Details of the annual total revenues from the Dartford Crossing from 2003-04 onwards are placed in the House Library (Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Charging Scheme—Annual Accounts).

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248381]

Mr. Hoon: The requested information, where recorded, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Driver Information Systems: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many licences for dynamic route guidance systems his Department has issued in each year since 1997. [249321]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the number of licences issued since 1997.

	Number of licences
1997	1
1998	0
1999	0
2000	1
2001	0
2002	1
2003	1
2004	2

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the incidence of drink driving. [249481]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I would refer my hon. Friend to section 3 of the Department for Transport's Road Safety Compliance Consultation document, published on 20 November 2008, which sets out the Government's latest proposal to deal with drink driving. A copy of the document is in the Library of the House and it can also be found on the Department's website.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to review the system of self-certification for the renewal of driving licences for those over 70 years of age. [250371]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, has been reviewing the system in place in Great Britain for ensuring that all drivers are fit to drive.

The review on health and driver licensing has been used to inform a public consultation.

I can confirm that the Department for Transport is currently preparing for a public consultation.

Railways: Bus Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason his Department has decided to run a rail replacement bus service on Tuesday mornings from Ealing Broadway station to Wandsworth Road station; for what reason this service is not advertised; how long he intends that this replacement bus service should operate; what the estimated monthly cost of this service to the public purse is; and how much of this cost has so far been recouped in terms of passenger revenue. [249217]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Mindful of the requirements of relevant legislation, the Department for Transport is currently funding a rail replacement bus service between Ealing Broadway station and Wandsworth Road station. This service, which is a temporary measure until the Department can arrange a replacement rail service in this area, has been operating since 14 December 2008 at a four-weekly cost of £1,880 to the Department for Transport.

The Department for Transport does not recoup any revenue from this service. As a rail replacement bus service, a rail ticket has to be purchased for travel on the bus, therefore revenue will be directed to the appropriate train operator for that area.

The Department for Transport intended the bus service to be advertised from 14 December 2008. Following a contractual delay, the bus service has been advertised, from this week, at the stations it is contracted to call at which are Ealing Broadway, Kensington Olympia and Wandsworth Road.

Road Traffic Offences: Elderly

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of prosecutions for road traffic offences that are not proceeded with annually on the grounds that the driver has subsequently surrendered his licence on grounds of old age. [250369]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) does not hold this information.

Road Traffic Offences: Fixed Penalties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of appeals against fixed penalty notices to traffic adjudicators were upheld in each of the last five years in each region of England; and if he will make a statement. [247900]

Paul Clark: This information is not collected centrally by the Government, but the available figures for the number of appeals made against the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices and the number of appeals upheld for each local authority are set out in the annual reports of the traffic adjudicators: the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service (PATAS) for London; and the Traffic Penalty Tribunal (TPT) for outside London.

The reports of the PATAS are available at:

www.parkingandtrafficappeals.gov.uk

The reports of the TPT are available at:

www.trafficpenaltytribunal.gov.uk

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of road traffic accidents which are recorded annually as being the fault of drivers aged over *(a)* 70 years and *(b)* 80 years. [250370]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Department for Transport publishes the number of drivers of different age groups involved in reported personal injury road accidents in table 38a of the publication "Road Casualties Great Britain - annual report 2007". Fault is not assigned to participants in these collisions. However, information on the contributory factors is collected and published in article 4 of the same report. Table 4h of this article provides the most frequently recorded contributory factors for car drivers by age group.

Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. The report is also published on the Department for Transport web site at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/roadcasualtiesgreatbritain20071.

Shipping: Lost Property

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many shipping containers have been lost overboard in UK waters in each year since 2006. [249471]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) does not have a separate database to record the loss of containers. The MCA operates databases to record incidents, including recording where containers are lost overboard.

The MCA relies on ships reporting loss of containers in accordance with national and European legislation.

To give a specific number would require a manual interrogation of the incident recording system and that would incur disproportionate costs.

Speed Limits: Schools

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on encouraging local authorities to apply 20 mph zones around schools; and if he will make a statement. [248622]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport encourages local authorities to introduce 20 mph zones in areas where vulnerable road users are present, including the roads around school premises.

This view is reflected in the Department for Transport guidance to local authorities on setting local speed limits, published in August 2006. In addition, Traffic Advisory Leaflet 9/99 provides best practice guidelines on setting 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones. Copies of the leaflet are in the Library of the House.

Vehicle Certification Agency

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 199W, on departmental official residences, for what purposes Vehicle Certification Agency staff are based in *(a)* the United States and *(b)* Japan. [250046]

Mr. Hoon: Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) staff are based in the United States and Japan to carry out their operational duties as a United Kingdom (UK) type approval (TA) authority to conduct and witness tests to European Community (EC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) directives and regulations on vehicles coming into Europe from those countries.

VCA does not have any official residences anywhere.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising: Economic Situation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support the advertising industry; and if he will make a statement. [249810]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to supporting the creative industries, including the advertising industry. Last year this Department launched Creative Britain, a strategy setting out in 26 commitments the Government's determination to move the creative industries from the margins to the mainstream of the UK economy. The commitments cover education and training, research and innovation and intellectual property.

The Government also provide targeted support to help companies start, survive and succeed. This is available to all businesses, including those in the advertising sector, via Business Link

www.businesslink.gov.uk.

On 14 January the Government launched a support package which consists of loan guarantees and a new Enterprise Fund aimed at helping companies struggling to access finance for working capital and investment.

Arts: Local Government Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much local authority funding was provided for the arts in England in each year since 1980. [246419]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government collects data on revenue and capital expenditure by local authorities. Expenditure on the arts by local authorities is only available on a consistent basis since 2004-05. The net current expenditure for 'arts development and support' is set out in the following table.

	Net current expenditure (£ million)
2004-05	121
2005-06	118
2006-07	118
2007-08	120

Arts: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects the baseline data for the Find Your Talent pilots to be established. [249225]

Barbara Follett: The baseline position of the Find Your Talent pathfinder areas is currently being established. An independent evaluation team of SQW Consulting and Ipsos MORI will measure baseline participation in a representative sample of young people in the 10 areas and the results of this survey will be available in May 2009.

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247362]

Barbara Follett: The Department provides funding to charities and voluntary organisations through grant in aid, specific grants, strategic commissioning and the procurement of services, but it does not record the status of all bodies that it makes payments to, and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does record the charitable status of those bodies that it provides substantial financial support to, and I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to the hon. Member for Winchester (Mr. Oaten) on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 353-54W, which includes a table of payments to charities where the charity received more than £100,000 in any one year.

Churches: Conservation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the Heritage Lottery Fund has been allocated to preserving historic churches in each of the last five years. [247833]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund provides funding to places of worship, including historic churches, through its Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme. The allocation for this scheme over the last five years is set out in the following table. Historic churches have also been eligible to apply to the fund's other grants programmes if they met the criteria, and provided that any application for outstanding repair works could not be tackled via the Places of Worship scheme.

Financial year	*Heritage Lottery Fund Repair Grants for Places of Worship budget (£)*
2004-05	20,000,000
2005-06	20,000,000
2006-07	20,000,000
2007-08	20,000,000
2008-09	18,000,000

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the long-term sustainability of historic churches; and if he will make a statement. [247834]

Barbara Follett: The Secretary of State relies on the advice of English Heritage in relation to the condition and sustainability of historic buildings. In 2005, English Heritage and the Council for the Care of Churches commissioned a Fabric Needs Survey, which aimed to establish the cost of all major repairs needed to bring all listed places of worship in England into good repair. The survey concluded, based on a sample of buildings, that £925 million over five years was necessary.

As part of its Heritage at Risk programme, English Heritage is undertaking an assessment of the condition and level of use of listed places of worship, the results of which are due to be published in 2010. This research will to give a national perspective on the physical condition of these buildings and inform DCMS, English Heritage and all partners across the sector, regarding the current and future prospects for sustainability.

Churches: Grants

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the reduction of the Heritage Lottery Fund's available funds on grants to church buildings; and if he will make a statement. [247835]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has always recognised that places of worship are a very special part of the United Kingdom's heritage, and it therefore continues to ring-fence funds for them. Although the Fund's grant budgets will reduce from 2009-13, a higher proportion of its overall budget has been set aside in recognition of the role these buildings play in community life.

The Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage remain committed to providing grants to historic places of worship. The joint Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage funding scheme has offered over £133 million for the repair of historic places of worship since it began in 2002. In 2009, £25 million will be offered to

listed places of worship: £17.5 million will go to Grade I and II* buildings, and £7.5 million to Grade II buildings. £15 million of this is provided by the HLF, and £10 million by EH. Both bodies anticipate continuing this grant scheme at its current level until 2010-11.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport where those offices established to advise on the maintenance and repair of church buildings will be located. [248228]

Barbara Follett: On 12 December 2008, English Heritage launched a scheme to provide funding for Support Officers for historic places of worship. To date, six Support Officer posts have been established in Brighton and Hove, Exeter, Coventry, Carlisle, the North-West region and Worcester. Posts are established in response to applications from dioceses; denominations; faith groups and other organisations or partnerships which have a role in the care of historic places of worship anywhere in England. The response to the scheme has been very positive and all nine English Heritage regions are now in discussion with potential partners. A wide geographical, denominational and multi-faith coverage is expected.

The Churches Conservation Trust is launching its Community Regeneration Task Force to work with the congregations of vulnerable church buildings where the building might end up vested in the Trust were it to become redundant.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* English Heritage are taking to assist church maintenance pilot projects in the dioceses of (a) Gloucester and (b) London. [248229]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides grant-in-aid to English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser on all matters concerning the conservation of England's historic environment.

The schemes in the Church of England dioceses of Gloucester and London are two of three pilot maintenance projects, which English Heritage has supported with funds and advice, the third being in the Church of England diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich. A model scheme will be developed from the lessons learnt from the pilot projects, which other dioceses and organisations will be encouraged to adopt, with funding from English Heritage for the set-up costs where possible.

Crown Lands and Estates

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse of each royal property is in 2008-09. [247976]

Barbara Follett: The royal household receives £15 million a year from my Department to meet the costs of property maintenance; utilities; telephones and related services at the occupied royal palaces in England. As given in the Royal Public Finances Annual Reports 2007-08, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House (http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/page3954.asp), the maintenance costs of the occupied royal palaces for the year to 31 March 2008 (the most recent year for which there are figures) were:

	Maintenance costs (£ million)
Buckingham Palace	5.9
Buckingham Palace Mews and Gardens	2.1
St. James's Palace	1.5
Clarence House and Marlborough House Mews	0.8
Kensington Palace	0.7
Hampton Court Mews and Paddocks	0.3
Windsor Castle	3.7
Windsor Castle Royal Mews	0.7
Windsor Home and Great Parks	0.7

Most of these costs were met from the grant in aid, the remainder from income from a facilities management charge paid by the Royal Collection Trust, £1.8 million in 2007-08.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years. [243743]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The annual DCMS staff Christmas party is self-funded by staff at no cost to the public purse. No expenditure has been incurred on staff entertainment in the last three years. All expenditure on official entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on gifts and hospitality, based on principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Public Appointments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what progress has been made in appointing a research consortium to review his Department's participation research; when he expects the consortium to be appointed; and what time frame he plans to set for its deliberation; [249426]

(2) what progress has been made in appointing a research consortium to review his Department's participation research; when he expects the consortium to have been appointed; and what time frame will be set for its deliberation. [249796]

Barbara Follett: We recently announced that the university of London's EPPI-centre and Matrix Knowledge Group have been appointed to conduct the first phase of the research. This phase is due to last one year. For further details on the new 'Culture and Sport Evidence Programme' (CASE, formerly referred to as the 'joint research programme') please see the new webpage at:

www.culture.gov.uk/case

Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards the target of reducing by 20 per cent. the number of unnecessary transactions required to be carried out by his Department's public bodies; if he will make it his policy to eliminate all unnecessary transactions; and if he will make a statement. [248919]

Barbara Follett: During the course of 2008, DCMS delivered a 9 per cent. reduction in the number of reports required of public bodies. We are pursuing further reductions with the aim of meeting the 20 per cent. target during 2009. Our oversight of each body is linked to a thorough risk assessment, so that a report should not be requested if the degree of risk does not justify it.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of people responding to his Department's Taking Part survey said that they had participated in an active sport during the preceding four weeks in each year since 2005. [249356]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

The following table shows the percentage of adults who participated in an active sport in the four weeks prior to interview.

Participation in active sport in past four weeks

Percentage

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
	%	*+/-*	*%*	*+/-*	*%*	*+/-*
Adults (16 and over)	53.7	0.8	53.4	0.9	53.6	0.8

This information has been extracted from the report published in December 2008, 'Final assessment of progress on PSA3'. The full report is available at

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx>

Horserace Totalisator Board: Recruitment

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications were received by his Department for posts of *(a)* members of the Independent Strategy Board of the Gambling Commission and *(b)* non-executive directors of the Tote; how many positions are available for each; and when he expects to make the appointments. [247354]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For the Independent Strategy Board of the Gambling Commission, nine vacancies were advertised and 50 applications were received. Appointments are expected to be made in time for the first board meeting on 4 March 2009.

For the non-executive directors of the Horserace Totalisator Board, two vacancies were advertised and 72 applications were received. I anticipate making these appointments by February 2009.

Listed Buildings: Liverpool

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants his Department and English Heritage have awarded for the maintenance of grade I listed buildings in Liverpool in the last two years; how much was awarded in each case; and if he will make a statement. [248325]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport provides no direct Exchequer funding for the maintenance of listed buildings. Government funding is provided as grant in aid to English Heritage.

English Heritage advises that they have offered the following grants to grade I listed buildings in Liverpool in the last two years. English Heritage's grant schemes are primarily for major urgent structural repair projects rather than ongoing maintenance.

Grade I building	*Grant type*	*Date grant offered*	*Amount of grant offered (£)*
St. John the Baptist Church, Tuebrook	Repair Grant for Places of Worship	19 December 2008	112,000
Cathedral Church of Christ in Liverpool	Grants for Cathedrals	19 December 2008	50,000
Princes Road Synagogue	Repair Grant for Places of Worship	21 December 2007	112,000
St. Georges Church, Everton	Repair Grant for Places of Worship	28 November 2007	73,000

National Lottery: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to assist voluntary organisations in applying for Heritage Lottery Fund grants. [248230]

Barbara Follett: This is a matter within the operational responsibility of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The fund has advised that it is committed to providing efficient and simple ways of funding voluntary organisations throughout the UK, and it produces a range of guidance, including some designed to help groups carrying out heritage projects for the first time.

The Government have encouraged all lottery distributors, including the Heritage

Lottery Fund, to ensure that the application process is as simple as possible. The lottery distributors have set up a website

http://www.lotteryfunding.org.uk

which has proved very successful in letting potential applicants know about the relevant lottery programmes, including those run by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Sports: Clubs

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer of 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 484-5, on the Subs for Clubs campaign, what progress has been made in talks between his Department and HM Treasury. [258344]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS officials have discussed the Central Council of Physical Recreation's (CCPRs) 'Subs for Clubs' proposal to allow community amateur sports clubs (CASC) to claim gift aid on junior subscriptions with HMT.

A decision was made against implementing this proposal at the current time. DCMS officials are in discussion with CCPR to identify ways of encouraging more clubs to register for the CASC scheme and to maximize the use of the existing benefits that CASCs enjoy.

To date the CASC scheme has now registered over 5,000 clubs receiving rate relief and other benefits. As of December 2009 Deloittes estimate that it has saved grassroots sports more than £48 million since its inception. This money has gone back into sport and has enabled clubs to spend it on everything from facilities to kit. Additionally, all community sports clubs will benefit over the next year from the reduction in VAT from 17.5 per cent. to 15 per cent. which will help to increase the funds available to clubs, and moreover provide more money in the pockets of potential donors.

Sports: EC Action

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates since March 2008 *(a)* he and *(b)* the Sports Minister have met with their European counterparts to discuss the European White Paper on sport. [258271]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have met with my European counterparts to discuss the White Paper at two EU Informal Sports Ministers' meetings on 16-17 March 2008 and 27-28 November 2008.

The Secretary of State has had no such discussions.

Sports: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public money was spent per capita on sporting infrastructure in *(a)* the north-east and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [245015]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have provided the following figures, based on Exchequer data held for the last five financial years from 2003-04 to the second quarter of 2008-09:

(a) Capital Exchequer awards to the north-east

Financial Year	£ Per capita based on 2001 census
2003-04	0.33
2004-05	0.46
2005-06	0.52
2006-07	0.69
2007-08	0.76
2008-09	0.18
Total	2.94

(b) Capital Exchequer awards to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland

Financial Year	£ Per capita based on 2001 census
2003-04	0.56
2004-05	0.00
2005-06	0.00
2006-07	0.26
2007-08	0.00
2008-09	0.59
Total	2.01

The constituency and region will also have benefited from lottery funding for sporting infrastructure during this period.

Sports: Public Participation

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of *(a)* all adults and *(b)* each priority group participated in active sport in the last four weeks. [245967]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 'Taking Part' survey is a continuous household survey providing national data on participation in culture, leisure and sport by adults aged 16 and over.

The following table shows the percentage of all adults, and those from each priority group, who participated in an active sport in the four weeks prior to interview.

Participation in active sport in past four weeks

Percentage

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
	%	+/-	%	+/-	%	+/-
Black and minority ethnic	33.3	2.2	31.9	2.4	32.6	2.3
Limiting disability	32.3	1.3	31.2	1.5	30.1	1.3
Lower socio-economic	43.4	1.1	42.2	1.3	43.6	1.2
Females	47.7	1.0	46.2	1.1	46.1	1.0
All adults	53.7	0.8	53.4	0.9	53.6	0.8

This information has been extracted from the report published in December 2008, "Final assessment of progress on PSA3". The full report is available at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx.

St George's Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many items of correspondence he has received on *(a)* St. George's Day and *(b)* St. Patrick's Day in the last 12 months. [247741]

Barbara Follett: As at 13 January we have identified 14 items of correspondence from the last 12 months which have St. George's Day as the main subject and one item of correspondence that has St. Patrick's Day as the main subject.

It is possible that further correspondence could mention St. George's Day or St. Patrick's Day as secondary issues, but this correspondence could be identified only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to promote St George's Day in 2009. [247743]

Barbara Follett: On 23 April, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport will fly the St. George's Flag alongside the Union Flag to celebrate St. George's Day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding is available from his Department to groups wishing to celebrate St George's Day. [247744]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no public funding available to groups wishing to celebrate St. George's Day.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has had discussions with tourism agencies about marking St. George's Day in 2009. [248360]

Barbara Follett: DCMS has had no specific discussions with tourism agencies about marking St. George's Day in 2009. However VisitEngland and some individual regions will have celebrations to mark St. George's Day in 2009. For example VisitEngland will highlight St. Georges Day events on enjoyengland.com as well as hosting Enjoy England Awards for Excellence on this date.

Taking Part Survey

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average standard deviation was of the datasets of his Department's Taking Part survey in each year since 2005. [247334]

Barbara Follett: The term 'standard deviation' refers to the variance, or spread, of data around the mean (standard deviation is the square root of the variance). Standard deviations can be calculated for individual estimates from Taking Part, rather than the overall dataset.

Confidence intervals are derived from the variance and the sample design, and are published for all Taking Part estimates. These indicate the range in which true percentages could fall.

To see an example, please refer to the latest report at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx

Taxis

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on taxis in each of the last three years. [247585]

Barbara Follett: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide under Travel and Subsistence and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

The expenditure on taxis by the Department in each year since 2005 is set out in the following table. These figures represent expenditure on taxis and black cabs. In addition, some expenditure on black cabs and taxis is included in general travel and subsistence account and cannot be separately identified except at disproportionate cost.

	Amount (£)
2007-08	36,359
2006-07	38,421
2005-06	21,759

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biofuels: Wood

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the accuracy of data on the availability and use of wood and its contribution to the sustainability of future biomass energy projects. [249125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Estimates of the availability and use of wood have been published by the Forestry Commission over a number of years. DEFRA has not undertaken an assessment of this information. The Forestry Commission publishes on its website the details of the methodologies used to compile the figures so that those using the information can make their own assessment of its accuracy.

Carbon Emissions: Rural Areas

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what account his Department takes of the capacity of rural areas to absorb carbon dioxide in formulating its climate change policy. [249987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department is undertaking further work to understand the realistic potential of the natural environment to act as a sink or store of carbon dioxide and also the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from management of the land. This takes account of the role of forests, soils, land-use and agriculture. My Department also supports a Rural Climate Change Forum to consider the ways in which rural areas can help mitigate and adapt to climate change. We will take all of this information into account as part of the Government's approach to meeting their commitments under the Climate Change Act.

Common Fisheries Policy

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his estimate is of the number of boats in the UK that would require a licence or other form of authorisation to facilitate recreational fisheries under Article 47 of

the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; [249749]

(2) what the estimated cost is of implementing and enforcing Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy in the UK; [249750]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the provisions of Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy on the marine environment; and if he will make a statement; [249752]

(4) what his estimate is of the number of people who will require a licence under the terms of Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; [249753]

(5) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the proposals under Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy on tourism; and if he will make a statement; [249754]

(6) what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposals in Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy on compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if he will make a statement; [249757]

(7) what his assessment is of the likely effects on *(a)* the economy, *(b)* jobs and *(c)* the number of recreational sea anglers of the provisions of Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if he will make a statement. [249759]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In England there are some 400 charter angling vessels that would require an authorisation under Article 47 of the proposal as currently drafted, plus an as yet unquantified number of privately owned vessels. As part of the process of negotiating this proposal we shall be seeking clarification from the Commission on a number of issues relating to Article 47. Until we have that clarification it is difficult accurately to assess its potential impact in the areas referred to in these questions. We shall be seeking stakeholders views on these points and considering them in more detail in the impact assessment that my officials are drawing up and which we shall publish as part of the formal consultation procedure.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials were consulted on the terms of Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if he will make a statement; [249755]

(2) when he expects Article 47 of the Council Regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy to be *(a)* (i) discussed in and (ii) approved by the Council of Ministers and *(b)* implemented and transposed; and if he will make a statement. [249758]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither I nor my officials were consulted before the Commission published the current proposal on 17 November. The proposal is scheduled for initial discussion by Ministers at the June Fisheries Council although I would not expect it to be approved then. The proposal has an envisaged implementation date of 1 January 2010, subject to negotiation.

Construction: Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the dredging of the Thames in Castle Point constituency as part of the Thames Gateway port development will commence. [250069]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Consents to undertake dredging to develop and subsequently maintain navigational areas within the London Gateway Port are given by the London Gateway Port Harbour Empowerment Order 2008 and issued by the Department for Transport. They came into force on 16 May 2008.

The timing of the proposed dredging is a commercial decision for the Harbour Authority, London Gateway Port Ltd.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of contractors and suppliers to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has reported compliance with the Government's security standards following publication of the report, Data Handling Procedures in Government, and the accompanying document, Cross-departmental Actions: Mandatory Minimum Action, on 25 June 2008. [245322]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is not available in the form requested. Since 1 July 2008 the DEFRA delivery network has been using the standard OGC security clauses for all new contracts and has also checked the compliance of its strategic IT partner with all the mandatory requirements of the Data Handling Review. In addition we have asked all information asset owners, responsible for assets containing personal protected information across the DEFRA network, to seek assurances from any other contractors or suppliers handling information on their behalf. Assurances have been received from all bar one of the owners in core DEFRA, and in respect of all executive agencies, except the Rural Payments Agency. In both cases the process of confirming assurances is under way but not yet complete.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which occasions his Department has convened a citizens' jury or randomly drawn panel of people to aid the Department's policy making since 2000; whether the participants were paid in each case; and if he will make a statement. [243038]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA was formed in June 2001. However, inquires with policy leads have revealed the following examples of where DEFRA has convened a Citizen's Jury since 2001:

In December 2005-January 2006, the Air and Environment Quality Division (now Atmosphere Quality and Industrial Pollution programme) ran a Citizen's Jury to explore public views on air quality in order to inform the development of future policies and strategies. Members of the jury were paid to participate in the event.

In November 2007, a DEFRA-funded research project (WU0112) employed a Citizen's Jury approach to explore people's understanding of risk associated with the microbial pollution of water courses; public attitudes to culpability given the current scientific and policy evidence base, particularly as this related to the role of livestock farming; where public priorities were in terms of appropriate level and types of policy intervention and mitigation; and views regarding responsibilities for taking action to reduce microbial risks. Members of the jury were paid to participate in the event.

When used carefully and appropriately, Citizens' Juries can be a helpful way of eliciting public preferences to factor into policy decision making.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate applicable to 0845 numbers are used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access to services. [248980]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, there are 38 telephone numbers for which callers are charged at the rate(s) applicable to 0845 numbers—four for core-DEFRA, 14 for DEFRA's executive agencies and 20 for non-departmental public bodies. None of the numbers are revenue sharing.

Members of the public using these numbers are charged by their telephone providers at their agreed rates. On 8 January 2009, BT announced that its consumer customers will no longer pay these charges from 16 January 2009. As from this date 0845 numbers will be included in their calls packages. Those not on a calls package and business customers will continue to pay the applicable or agreed 0845 rates.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* weight of fish landed in the UK for domestic consumption was in the last 12 months, broken down by country of registration of fishing vessel. [248985]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The live weight and value of fish landed into the UK for domestic consumption in 2007 are shown in the following table:

Vessel nationality	*Live weight (Thousand tonnes)*	*Value (£ million)*
UK	439.8	535.0
Faroes	22.1	14.0
Norway	21.6	6.1
Irish Republic	17.6	10.9
France	17.0	19.0
Denmark	12.4	5.4
Russia	6.4	7.1
Belgium	4.6	12.7
Spain	3.5	5.5
Netherlands	1.1	2.0
Poland	1.0	0.6
Germany	1.0	1.0
Sweden	0.9	0.3
Belize	0.7	1.0
Total	549.6	620.8

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* tonnage and *(b)* monetary value was of landings at UK ports by EU vessels in 2008 of fish caught in (i) the North Sea and (ii) UK home territorial waters. [249046]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information on the tonnage of fish landings by EU vessels from the North sea as a whole for 2006, the latest year for which such information is available, is provided in the following table.

Landings by EU member states of fish caught in the North sea (ICES area IV):

Member state	*Landings in 2006 (tonnes live weight)*
Belgium	9,728
Denmark	593,375
Germany	83,758
Ireland	7,280
France	50,653
Lithuania	6,989
Netherlands	152,185
Poland	2,093
Portugal	1,060
Sweden	48,491
United Kingdom	250,796
EU total	1,206,406

Source:
Eurostat.

The value of the fish involved and details of those caught in UK territorial waters is not readily available. Such information can be made available only by contacting the individual member states and third countries concerned. This would include requesting information on the value of catches by vessels of other member states and third countries that fish within that part of the North sea bounded by the UK's 200 mile fisheries limit. However, such information is only available in terms of the totals for the sea areas involved, and only for the quantities of fish involved rather than value. As such, the information requested is not available.

Fishing Catches: North Sea

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the assessed economic value of fisheries catch in each North Sea fisheries box that falls partly or wholly within the UK's 200 mile zone is. [248988]

Huw Irranca-Davies: To produce the requested information would require information on the value of catches by vessels of other member states and third countries that fish within that part of the North Sea bounded by the UK's 200 mile fisheries limit. However, such information is only available in terms of the totals for the sea areas involved, not at the level of the individual rectangles that make up this area, with these totals only being available for the quantities of fish involved rather than value. As such, the information could only be made available by contacting the individual member states and third countries concerned.

Fishing Catches: Shellfish

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what tonnage of *(a)* lobster, *(b)* shellfish and *(c)* shrimp was landed by the UK fishing fleet in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [249051]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Live weight landings of shellfish into the UK and abroad by UK registered fishing vessels for 2007 are shown in the following table.

Species	*Live weight (Thousand tonnes)*
Lobster	2.8
Shrimps	1.4
Other shellfish	141.6
Total	145.8

Fishing Grounds

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fishing vessels are operating in UK home territorial waters from EU Eastern European Baltic accession countries that prior to accession fished in the Baltic Sea. [249083]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No fishing vessels from EU Eastern European Baltic accession countries that prior to accession fished in the Baltic Sea are operating in UK territorial waters (within the 12 mile limit).

Three Polish vessels have fished within the UK 200 mile fishery limit since January 2008.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which fisheries boxes would fall *(a)* completely and *(b)* partially within the UK 200 mile/median maritime control limit in the absence of the common fisheries policy. [248989]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A copy of the map of the UK 200 mile fishery limits showing the statistical rectangles covered either fully, or partially, by the limit will be placed in the Library of the House.

Fishing Vessels

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what tonnage of foreign-registered fishing vessels are operating in UK home fishing waters. [249048]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The number of foreign registered fishing vessels operating in the UK 200 mile fishery limit is very fluid and constantly changing in response to fishing opportunities. Their presence is recorded through a combination of obligatory satellite monitoring systems and through sightings of vessels made during aerial and naval reconnaissance activity carried out by, or on behalf of, UK fisheries administrations.

Based on the information collected as above, it is estimated that the number of foreign fishing vessels that operated in the UK 200 mile fishery limit in 2008, produced from sightings and satellite data, was 2,886. Of these, the vast majority (2,321 vessels) were registered fishing vessels from other member states. This includes fishing vessels identified as present within UK fishery limits but not carrying out fishing activities (e.g. Russian registered vessels).

The tonnage of those vessels involved is not readily available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Hague Preferences

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his Department's policy is on invoking the Hague Preferences; [248990]

(2) what extra total allowable catch accrues to UK fishing vessels through his Department's use of the Hague Preferences in this year. [249000]

Huw Irranca-Davies: For some time, the Government have been concerned that the Hague Preference mechanism does not provide the necessary support to coastal communities in the UK and Ireland that it was intended to do. We have, therefore, sought to open discussions with the Irish on suitable replacement arrangements. To date, they have been reluctant to engage. We will, however, continue to press them on this, and plan to explore options with the Commission and other member states in due course.

In recent years, we have limited our actions to offsetting the impacts of Irish invocation in the Irish Sea and adjacent areas to ensure the UK fleet is not put at a disadvantage. However, in the December 2007 EU Fisheries Council, we also invoked on both North Sea haddock and whiting, in recognition of the particular importance of these stocks to UK fishermen, and the concerns expressed within the industry that the scientific advice (on which the quotas were based) was somewhat at odds with fishermen's experience on the ground. For the same reasons, we repeated these invocations last December. In both years however, we restricted the scale of our invocations, recognising the concerns of other member states who lose out as a result of our actions.

The effects of the December 2008 EU Fisheries Council invocations on the scale of UK quotas for the stocks in question, are included in the following table:

		Hague Preference		
		UK Quota Pre-HP	UK Quota Post-HP	Gain/Loss
Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and West of Scotland				
Area VIa cod	Counter-invocation	159	181	+22
Area VIIa cod	Counter-invocation	384	259	-125
Area VIa haddock	Counter-invocation	3,701	2,737	-964
Area VIa saithe	Counter-invocation	2,312	3,617	1,305
Area VIIa whiting	Counter-invocation	111	81	-30
Area VIIa plaice	Counter-invocation	731	432	-299
North Sea				
Area IV haddock	Invoke 30 (%)	25,371	27,507	2,136
Area IV whiting	Invoke 30 (%)	6,647	8,426	1,779

Litter: Fast Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with Keep Britain Tidy on fast food outlets causing litter on streets. [248787]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Keep Britain Tidy (also known as ENCAMS) surveys show that fast food related litter is found in approximately a quarter of sites surveyed across England, with incidences increasing year-on-year.

For this reason, the voluntary code of practice for 'Food on the Go' was developed by Keep Britain Tidy on behalf of DEFRA, recognising that industry has an important role to play in tackling litter issues. In January 2009, Keep Britain Tidy published results of a survey into the most frequently found brands among fast food litter as part of its latest litter campaign. The results of the survey are available on their website:

www.encams.org.

DEFRA currently grant-aids £5 million per annum to Keep Britain Tidy to help meet the Government's aim of an improved local environment. DEFRA officials meet regularly with colleagues in Keep Britain Tidy, and Lord Hunt, Minister for local environmental quality, is planning to meet with them in the near future. Each year Ministers also agree priorities for the grant spend.

Rural Areas: Employment

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effect of the economic downturn on employment opportunities in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [248186]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Evidence shows that the economic downturn is likely to affect urban and rural areas. DEFRA is working closely with the regional development agencies and the Commission for Rural Communities, as well as with those Departments with policy responsibility, i.e. BERR and DWP, to make sure that the National Economic Council has access to high quality intelligence regarding the economic situation in rural areas.

Total Allowable Catches: North Sea

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of current North Sea *(a)* haddock, *(b)* cod, *(c)* herring and *(d)* plaice total allowable catch comes from boxes which fall (i) completely and (ii) partially within the UK 200 mile limit. [249184]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is not available. The process for the production of estimates of total allowable catch (TAC) for each stock involves the scientific assessment of the state of the stock at the level of the overall sea areas covered by each stock definition. As such, the process does not incorporate any apportionment, or derivation, of the TAC at the level of detail of the individual fisheries rectangles within the sea areas involved.

Water Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research on the effects of the introduction of surface area water charges for churches, community and voluntary groups which own property used exclusively to further their causes. [248858]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are aware of the problem of affordability faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging for surface water drainage and are looking at what can be done.

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what response his Department has made to representations made by sports clubs affected by increases in charges following the revision of the surface water charging element. [250359]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ministers have received a range of representations from sports clubs about the move from charging based on rateable value to site area charging for surface water drainage. The Government are aware of the affordability issues faced by some customers as a result of the switch to site area charging and are currently reviewing their position. While the issue is under consideration, letters will continue to be acknowledged, and I will respond in full in due course.

Water Companies: Flood Control

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns

612-13W, on water companies: flood control, what powers local authorities will have in circumstances where water companies do not co-operate, share information or take action which an authority considers to be necessary. [249747]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This issue is being considered as part of the forthcoming draft Floods and Water Bill, due to be published in spring 2009.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Official Hospitality

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how much has been spent on *(a)* departmental Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in 10 Downing Street in the last three years. [243733]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Cardiff, West (Kevin Brennan), Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office, on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 582W.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Penalty Notices

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fines for the non-payment of penalty notices for disorder (PND) were registered by the courts in each of the last four years, broken down by *(a)* the offence for which the PND was issued and *(b)* how many fines were paid on time in full. [250390]

Mr. Straw: The number of persons against whom a fine was registered following the issue of a penalty notice for disorder (PND), by offence, in England and Wales for the years 2004 to 2007 can be viewed in the following table. Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Significant improvements are being achieved by the courts in the collection of fines. The Courts Act 2003 introduced a series of measures aimed at improving fine collection including deduction from earnings and benefits, seizure of goods and clamping of vehicles. We do not identify separately the payment rate of fines arising from PNDs, but the latest enforcement rate for all financial penalties is 85.2 per cent. for the period April to December 2008. The payment rates for the last four years are shown in the following table.

	Payment rate (Percentage)
2004-05	80
2005-06	83
2006-07	92
2007-08	95

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over, where a fine was registered, England and Wales, 2004 to 2007[1, 2]

Office description	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
			Fine registered	
£80 tickets issued				
Wasting police time	579	1,161	1,787	1,807
Misuse of public telecommunications system	58	140	319	431
Giving false alarm to fire and rescue authority	22	38	52	37
Causing harassment, alarm or distress[2]	13,125	26,754	35,154	33,021
Throwing fireworks	80	271	264	223
Drunk and disorderly	11,035	14,459	16,919	18,161
Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]	481	211	8,492	7,979
Theft (retail under £200)[2]	1,128	60	21,157	24,344
Breach of fireworks curfew	2	23	16	13
Possession of category 4 firework	6	70	15	10
Possession by a person under 18 of adult firework	7	4,702	21	31
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	0	11,927	9	9
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	0	14	7	11
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	10	8	390	405
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	21	15	122	211
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	0	6	20	22
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	10	1	99	138
£50 tickets issued				
Trespass on a railway	45	115	463	675
Throwing stones at a train/ railway	25	5	6	10
Drunk in a highway	1,166	1,339	1,158	788
Consumption of alcohol in public place	349	499	749	1,090
Depositing and leaving litter	25	325	536	589
Consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	4	16	17	16
Allowing consumption of alcohol by under 18 on relevant premises	2	12	4	1
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	0	8	20	35
All offences	28,180	62,179	87,796	90,057

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[2] Penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme commenced in November 2004.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Compensation: Enforcement

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of enforcing a compensation order was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [250108]

Bridget Prentice: Information on the costs of collection of compensation orders is not collected. Data on the costs of collection of compensation orders is not held by either the Ministry of Justice or HMCS. Information on the enforcement rate of financial penalties imposed

by courts is held but cannot make the distinction between compensation orders and other financial penalties and to use this figure to estimate the collection of compensation orders would be misleading.

It is therefore not possible to establish the average cost of collecting compensation orders.

The payment rate for financial impositions that includes compensation, costs, fines and the victims surcharge was 95 per cent. in 2007-08.

Coroners

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many open verdicts were recorded by coroners in each year between 2002 and 2008, broken down by area. [250401]

Bridget Prentice: Statistics on the number of open verdicts returned by coroners in England and Wales in each year between 2002 and 2007, broken down by area, have been placed in the Library of the House. Figures for 2008 are not yet available, but are due to be published on the Ministry of Justice website in May.

Coroners: Ethnic Groups

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made by his Department on the recording of ethnicity data by coroners. [250400]

Bridget Prentice: At present coroners do not collect data on the ethnicity of the deceased in deaths which are referred to them. As part of our work to implement the coroner reforms included in the Coroner and Justice Bill we will be reviewing the statistical data currently collected by coroners and considering whether any changes are required.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expert advisers have been commissioned by his Department and its agencies since 1997; on what topic each was commissioned; and whether the advisers so appointed made a declaration of political activity in each case. [246664]

Mr. Straw: Lord Lester acted as the Secretary of State's expert adviser on constitutional reform between July 2007 and November 2008, and made a declaration of political activity prior to his appointment.

The Ministry of Justice does not hold a central list of all expert advisory appointments made by it and its agencies since 1997. The Department makes a number of appointments to public bodies, including advisory non-departmental public bodies, and compiling such a list would incur disproportionate cost. Since 2003 the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each pay band.

Written Questions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on how many occasions Ministers in his Department have used their discretion to rule that a parliamentary question for written answer should be answered because it would be in the public interest to do so, even though to do so would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700 in the last 12 months. [249143]

Mr. Wills: In the last 12 months, the Ministry of Justice has answered one written parliamentary question for which the cost of answering the question exceeded the disproportionate cost threshold as the Minister responsible believed it to be in the public interest to do so.

Freedom of Information Act

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 476W, on the Freedom of Information Act 2000, when the public consultation on section 5 of the Act concluded; and when he plans to publish his response. [249331]

Mr. Straw: The public consultation on section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act concluded on 1 February 2008. The Government continue to assess the merits of designating additional public authorities under the Act and will publish their response to the section 5 public consultation by the summer.

Offender Group Reconviction Score System

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what risks are taken into account in assessments made under the Offender Group Reconviction Score system; and what assessment he has made of the average level of accuracy of evidence upon which such assessments are made. [249927]

Mr. Hanson: The Offender Group Reconviction Scale (OGRS) calculates the probability that a convicted offender will be convicted at least once within two years of their release from custody or from the start of their community sentence for any type of offence. The latest version (OGRS 3) is based on:

age at the date of the current caution, non-custodial sentence or discharge from custody;

gender;

the type of offence for which the offender has currently been cautioned or convicted;

the number of times the offender has previously been cautioned and convicted; and

the length in years of their recorded criminal history.

Guidance for practitioners emphasises the strengths and limitations of OGRS and reminds them that while research shows OGRS to be a strong predictor of proven re-offending it is an aid, not a substitute for judgment.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation assess whether likelihood of reoffending is comprehensively and accurately assessed as part of their Offender Management inspections and their reports are made public.

Prisoners: Childbirth

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were born to mothers in custody in each of the last 10 years. [248679]

Mr. Hanson: Women in prison have a right to the same medical provision as women in the community and do not give birth in prison as a matter of course.

The number of babies born to mothers in custody since November 2006, when the Prison Service began collecting the relevant information centrally, is as follows:

	Number of babies born
April 2006 to March 2007	37
April 2007 to March 2008	102
April 2008 to December 2008	75

The figures by establishment are as follows.

Establishment	*MBU Places*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
Askham Grange	10	0	3	1
Bronzefield	12	7	18	13
Cookham Wood	—	0	0	[3]n/a
Downview	—	2	0	0
Drake Hall	—	1	0	1
East Sutton Park	—	0	0	0
Eastwood Park	12	3	21	5
Foston Hall	—	0	2	2
Holloway	13	5	35	16
Low Newton	—	3	4	4
Morton Hall	—	0	0	0
New Hall	9	3	2	9
Peterborough	12	8	11	8
Send	—	0	0	0
Styal	7	5	6	7
Total	75	37	102	66

[1] November 2006 to March 2007
[2] April to November 2008
[3] Changed function to male juvenile establishment in 2007.

Prisoners: Education

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in respect of what schemes to tackle intolerance amongst prisoners pilots have been initiated. [249880]

Mr. Hanson: Race and Equalities Action Group (REAG) have been developing a twin-track approach the primary focus of which has been tackling racial intolerance. The first stage consists of detection and disruption measures. Guidance provided asks staff to risk assess and subsequently categorise the offender. The second stage moves from detection to intervention. REAG has developed an education set accredited through the Open College Network, available to education departments within establishments.

The education sessions have piloted in three establishments, the complete scheme will be piloted this year

Probation Service for England and Wales: Finance

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projections he has made of trends in the level of demand for services provided by *(a)* the Probation Service, *(b)* HM Courts Service and *(c)* HM Prison Service as a result of the economic downturn; and what consideration he has given to allocating additional resources to each in this respect. [246953]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has not produced any projections of demand for services provided by *(a)* the Probation Service, *(b)* HM Courts Service and *(c)* HM Prison Service as a result of the economic downturn. However, the Department's Ministers and Corporate Management Board are supplied with regular statistical information about both the downturn itself, and areas of that Department's business where demand for services might be affected. This ensures that timely action can be taken where necessary.

Changes in demand for services are taken into account when agreeing allocations to departmental business groups, along with other factors such as policy considerations, inflationary pressures and the potential for efficiency savings.

The Department remains committed to living within its budget as set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. We are currently looking hard at the services we provide in order to find new ways to improve how we deliver them, while ensuring that we focus on our frontline services. We aim to drive out inefficiencies, overlap and duplication and to reduce our overheads, especially in our headquarters areas. This work should help the Department to ensure that we are able to redeploy staff to the frontline as and where appropriate.

Probation Service: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average caseload of members of Probation Service staff was in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08. [249616]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not produce statistics on the average caseload of probation staff. However, data are collected on the number of offenders supervised by the National Probation Service (NPS) and, separately, on the number of staff in post.

The total number of offenders supervised by the NPS on 31 March 2006 was 227,654, on 31 March 2007 it was 237,796 and on 31 December 2007 it was 242,722. This information is taken from the Probation Statistics Quarterly Brief, which can be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/probationquarterly.htm

The number of NPS staff in post at 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007 and 31 December 2007 are set out in the following table. Data for the quarter ending 31 March 2008 are not yet available as they are still being validated.

Probation Service Staff in Post: 2006-08

2007-08[1] *Quarter 3 31 December2007*	*Number*
Probation Officers[2]	8,257.54
Probation Services Officers[3]	6,221.76
Other Staff	6,415.04
Total	20,894.34

Probation Service Staff in Post: 2006-08

	Number
2007-08[1]: Quarter 3 31 December2007	
2006-07[1]: Quarter 4 31 March 2007	
Probation Officers	8,265.35
Probation Services Officers	6,506.78
Other Staff	6,473.53
Total	21,245.66
2005-06[1]: Quarter 4 31 March 2006	
Probation Officers	8,262.50
Probation Services Officers	6,544.28
Other Staff	6,296.67
Total	21,103.45

[1] Figures provided are Full Time Equivalent. Figures for Quarter 3 2007-08 have yet to be published and may be subject to minor amendment upon publication. Figures for Quarter 4 2007-08 are unavailable as they currently being validated.
[2] Includes Senior Practitioners, Probation Officers, Practice Development Assessors, Trainee Probation Officers and Senior Probation Officers.
[3] Includes Probation Services Officers and Treatment Managers.

Rape: Prosecutions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful prosecutions for rape were made in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [248509]

Mr. Straw: The number of proceedings at magistrates courts not leading to a finding of guilt, and the number of defendants found guilty at all courts, for rape offences, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available), are given in the following table.

The figures relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Centrally collected data are available at police force area level which are given in the table.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for rape offences[1], by outcome[2] and police force area[3], 1997 to 2007[4,5], England and Wales

Police force area	*1997*		*1998*		*1999*		*2000*	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	*Number found guilty*	*Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt*	*Number found guilty*	*Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt*	*Number found guilty*	*Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt*	*Number found guilty*
Avon and Somerset	51	9	52	14	60	9	44	13
Bedfordshire	18	5	26	2	27	5	24	5
Cambridgeshire	15	5	15	2	32	4	23	4
Cheshire	11	8	19	9	17	11	17	11
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Cleveland	5	7	13	5	8	8	12	5
Cumbria	11	—	7	4	10	4	3	3
Derbyshire	30	7	30	6	29	10	25	11
Devon and Cornwall	40	11	10	23	16	17	15	12
Dorset	23	4	13	4	14	7	7	13
Durham	7	7	16	9	18	5	34	3
Essex	27	17	45	13	47	8	27	4
Gloucestershire	7	2	10	2	9	4	12	7
Greater Manchester	118	25	99	44	97	26	70	41
Hampshire	39	26	48	21	59	25	61	21
Hertfordshire	16	8	10	6	13	7	22	4
Humberside	6	8	17	7	12	8	16	6
Kent	17	12	32	9	18	14	28	17
Lancashire	42	13	38	16	30	28	49	13
Leicestershire	36	9	25	17	12	12	27	6
Lincolnshire	16	6	21	5	16	3	14	7
Merseyside	7	14	39	17	34	10	53	8
Metropolitan Police	200	95	209	94	268	88	212	97
Norfolk	14	2	16	2	20	2	9	4
North Yorkshire	12	3	9	6	13	7	8	6
Northamptonshire	0	3	9	4	7	8	4	5
Northumbria	59	24	96	21	83	20	71	16
Nottinghamshire	48	11	42	14	29	21	38	16
South Yorkshire	27	17	26	11	12	14	38	6
Staffordshire	27	10	17	9	12	13	—	14
Suffolk	12	4	22	4	11	8	8	5

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for rape offences[1], by outcome[2] and police force area[3], 1997 to 2007[4,5]. England and Wales

Police force area	1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty
Surrey	9	3	12	4	10	2	16	2
Sussex	6	13	31	13	26	8	34	7
Thames Valley	48	13	39	9	21	16	24	13
Warwickshire	4	—	6	1	4	1	5	1
West Mercia	15	10	23	10	16	8	13	5
West Midlands	65	36	99	44	103	31	113	29
West Yorkshire	66	23	58	43	102	41	91	38
Wiltshire	21	3	23	2	11	1	4	4
Dyfed-Powys	14	6	14	2	26	5	20	4
Gwent	24	11	30	3	23	8	17	7
North Wales	23	6	22	9	18	6	19	4
South Wales	41	21	54	31	46	28	43	20
Total	1,277	517	1,441	571	1,425	561	1,346	519

Police force area	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty
Avon and Somerset	74	14	68	12	57	20	49	22
Bedfordshire	15	10	22	5	13	5	20	12
Cambridgeshire	24	7	14	8	14	2	20	4
Cheshire	25	6	18	9	18	10	20	11
City of London	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—
Cleveland	14	5	21	11	25	9	14	10
Cumbria	26	6	18	4	9	8	6	10
Derbyshire	31	4	37	7	39	13	37	19
Devon and Cornwall	18	10	0	15	5	14	2	15
Dorset	33	3	22	6	13	3	15	4
Durham	33	3	30	4	21	1	24	8
Essex	35	8	47	5	43	6	41	9
Gloucestershire	13	—	28	2	5	7	20	—
Greater Manchester	117	37	149	32	156	31	152	27
Hampshire	78	20	77	21	81	10	70	14
Hertfordshire	18	5	23	8	25	10	37	11
Humberside	10	8	22	9	15	10	23	8
Kent	26	17	51	16	40	7	43	10
Lancashire	64	16	76	14	49	20	50	16
Leicestershire	42	4	47	8	33	15	30	12
Lincolnshire	14	5	24	9	21	4	22	5
Merseyside	55	24	79	15	82	13	45	20
Metropolitan Police	339	76	432	96	477	113	376	103
Norfolk	16	5	13	8	12	5	1	9
North Yorkshire	16	6	18	8	15	6	31	12
Northamptonshire	3	9	5	8	2	8	2	14
Northumbria	50	21	38	22	55	20	35	18
Nottinghamshire	51	25	48	13	52	13	53	11
South Yorkshire	40	15	39	17	32	19	36	23
Staffordshire	51	7	42	11	36	9	30	16
Suffolk	23	1	25	7	18	6	24	3
Surrey	19	5	21	5	27	5	10	5
Sussex	35	7	39	11	21	17	38	12
Thames Valley	42	15	31	15	42	12	35	16
Warwickshire	2	2	7	1	7	1	3	3

Police force area	2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty
West Mercia	35	7	33	12	25	9	29	10
West Midlands	155	37	205	27	169	52	151	51
West Yorkshire	144	21	119	15	101	30	51	48
Wiltshire	17	2	18	9	20	6	22	4
Dyfed-Powys	12	2	19	2	10	2	23	4
Gwent	28	7	33	16	38	9	35	6
North Wales	23	2	22	5	6	6	19	6
South Wales	63	10	77	20	50	17	64	23
Total	1,923	494	2,150	548	1,967	583	1,809	644

Police force area	2005		2006		2007	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty
Avon and Somerset	44	11	47	17	41	18
Bedfordshire	16	8	14	5	8	8
Cambridgeshire	17	9	16	6	19	6
Cheshire	29	10	15	17	14	11
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	33	8	16	16	11	20
Cumbria	9	6	10	5	9	9
Derbyshire	52	12	28	20	35	14
Devon and Cornwall	1	19	10	18	8	21
Dorset	16	4	13	8	19	3
Durham	25	8	25	7	22	4
Essex	38	11	17	12	9	8
Gloucestershire	12	3	14	13	26	5
Greater Manchester	134	46	122	47	127	44
Hampshire	71	27	32	30	65	25
Hertfordshire	41	6	46	8	10	12
Humberside	27	16	19	26	1	22
Kent	35	17	44	17	33	26
Lancashire	87	13	49	29	57	23
Leicestershire	37	10	27	7	18	11
Lincolnshire	19	13	7	7	6	6
Merseyside	18	23	26	15	19	15
Metropolitan Police	462	104	404	133	367	138
Norfolk	6	10	11	14	1	11
North Yorkshire	19	11	21	11	16	10
Northamptonshire	12	7	0	12	7	9
Northumbria	43	11	40	19	31	21
Nottinghamshire	38	18	37	13	22	18
South Yorkshire	26	35	38	25	23	24
Staffordshire	32	13	38	8 p	20	20
Suffolk	24	7	24	12	14	5
Surrey	20	4	15	5	14	4
Sussex	53	11	44	11	17	24
Thames Valley	60	21	59	17	31	23
Warwickshire	2	8	6	5	8	2
West Mercia	[illegible]	11	20	14	15	9
West Midlands	[illegible]	62	113	48	104	55
West Yorkshire	62	48	24	37	32	42
Wiltshire	27	3	10	11	13	7
Dyfed-Powys	7	4	9	3	7	5
Gwent	28	7	35	7	21	14

Police force area	2005		2006		2007	
	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty	Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt	Number found guilty
North Wales	15	3	15	3	3	10
South Wales	51	16	43	16	54	15
Total	1,864	694	1,581	754	1,361	777

[1] Includes
Rape of a female aged under 16—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a male aged under 16—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a male aged 16 or over—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 5.
Rape of a male child under 13 by a male—Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 5.
[2] "Where proceedings did not lead to a finding of guilt" covers defendants tried and found not guilty as well as proceedings that were discontinued or cases where no evidence was offered, charges were withdrawn or the judge ruled that there was no case to answer.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher order of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table. (See also footnote [3])
[4] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Repossession Orders: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [249978]

Bridget Prentice: Although figures for the West Chelmsford constituency are not available, the following tables show the number of mortgage and landlord possession orders made in Chelmsford county court from 2003 onwards.

The civil procedure rules state that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, Chelmsford county court covers areas other than West Chelmsford and therefore not all possession actions at this court will relate to this constituency.

Court level statistics on mortgage and landlord repossession actions from 1987 to 2007 are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/mortgagelandlordpossession.htm

These figures do not indicate how many homes have actually been repossessed. Repossessions can occur without a court order being made, while not all court orders result in repossession.

Table 1: Mortgage[1] possession orders made[2,3] in the Chelmsford county court, 2003-08[4]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (January-September)
Chelmsford	175	226	255	301	303	301
HMCS South East Region	8,301	10,050	15,220	17,693	17,870	16,169

Table 2: Landlord[1] possession orders made[2,3] in the Chelmsford county court, 2003-08[4]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (January-September)
			n			
Chelmsford	347	337	266	313	332	274
HMCS South East Region	20,336	19,834	19,157	18,093	19,177	16,044

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.
[2] Landlord possession data include all types of landlord whether social or private.
[3] Includes orders made through both standard and accelerated procedures. Landlord actions via the accelerated procedure enables the orders to be made solely on the basis of written evidence and shorthold tenancies, when the fixed period of tenancy has come to an end.
[4] Includes outright and suspended orders, the latter being where the court grants the claimant possession but suspends the operation of the order. Provided the defendant complies with the terms of suspension, which usually require the defendant to pay the current mortgage or rent instalments plus some of the accrued arrears, the possession order cannot be enforced.
[5] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[6] Figures for 2008 are provisional.
Source:
Ministry of Justice

Royal Family: Wills

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish sealed Royal Wills in cases where such Wills were sealed prior to 1990. [249315]

(2) if he will review his policy on the practice of allowing Royal wills to be sealed. [249316]

Mr. Straw: The power to seal and unseal all Wills is exercised by the court. The decision whether or not to permit inspection of a Will of a senior member of the Royal Family that has been sealed by the court is a matter for the President of the Family Division upon application.

The President is currently considering setting up a committee to review the Non-Contentious Probate Rules 1987, which will include consideration of the current

rules relating to the inspection and/or publication of Wills. The power to make new rules is vested in the President with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor.

Sentencing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released on home detention curfew in each year since 1999 have served *(a)* one quarter of their sentence, *(b)* 90 days less than half their sentence and *(c)* 30 days of their sentence; for what offences were prisoners in each of those three bands originally convicted; and what the average length of the original sentence handed down to the offender in each of those three bands was. [250392]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested on length on time served prior to release on Home Detention Curfew (HDC) could be provided by examining individual prisoner records only at disproportionate cost. However information is available on the number of prisoners released on HDC in each year from 1999-2007 by sentence length band, as shown in the following tables. These figures can be found in Prison Statistics England and Wales, 1999-2002 and Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2003-07, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library, and also on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm.

Eligible prisoners are not released on HDC unless they have served a minimum of one quarter of their sentence in custody, subject to a minimum of 30 days.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Home Detention Curfew release by sentence length – taken from table 10.16 in OMCS 2007, 9.13 in OMCS 2006 and earlier tables in OMCS and PSEW – England and Wales

	1999			2000			2001		
	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)
Total	49,530	14,820	30	55,344	15,513	28	54,064	13,664	25
All cases to less than 12 months	27,558	7,440	34	31,382	7,927	25	30,646	6,747	22
3 months to less than 4 months	6,256	1,370	27	7,177	1,553	22	6,791	1,205	18
4 months to less than 6 months	9,612	2,154	22	11,116	2,358	21	11,230	2,067	18
6 months to less than 9 months	7,023	2,661	38	8,047	2,304	29	8,110	1,952	24
9 months to less than 12 months	4,667	1,655	35	5,042	1,732	34	4,596	1,523	34
12 months to less than 4 years	21,972	7,380	34	23,962	7,586	32	23,418	6,917	30

	2002			2003			2004		
	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)
Total	55,370	20,525	37	57,551	21,223	37	55,010	19,294	35
All cases to less than 12 months	30,574	10,680	35	32,098	10,553	33	32,012	10,205	32
3 months to less than 4 months	6,450	1,695	26	6,605	1,619	25	6,502	1,419	22
4 months to less than 6 months	11,870	4,055	34	13,228	4,299	32	13,293	4,230	32
6 months to less than 9 months	7,843	2,956	38	7,606	2,670	35	7,568	2,659	35
9 months to less than 12 months	4,416	1,974	45	4,659	1,936	42	4,559	1,917	42
12 months to less that 4 years	24,796	9,804	40	25,453	10,650	42	23,798	9,089	38

	2005			2006			2007		
	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)	Population in sentence length band	Released	Release rate (%)
Total	54,616	17,296	32	52,987	13,686	26	53,835	11,428	21
All cases to less than 12 months	30,273	8,507	28	29,389	6,134	21	29,372	4,345	15
3 months to less than 4 months	6,040	1,060	17	6,674	722	11	6,613	350	5
4 months to less than 6 months	12,436	3,452	28	11,722	2,343	19	11,178	1,430	13
6 months to less than 8 months	7,150	2,556	36	6,915	1,777	26	6,788	1,642	25
8 months to less than 12 months	4,249	1,691	39	4,278	1,372	32	4,793	1,315	27
12 months to less than 4 years	24,343	8,789	36	23,598	7,552	32	24,463	6,083	25

Trade Unions

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what meetings staff of the Courts Service have had with the relevant trades unions to discuss resources for the Courts Service in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11 in the last 12 months; [248343]

(2) what plans he has to consult the relevant trades unions on *(a)* his Department's budget and *(b)* planned alterations to that budget for 2009-10 and 2010-11. [248344]

Mr. Straw: Planning work has been underway since September 2008 to determine how the Ministry of Justice will live within its spending review settlement, secure £1 billion of savings by 2010-11. Regular meetings have been held with the unions throughout this period, with the next planned meeting at the corporate level provisionally scheduled for 22 January 2009. Regular engagement has also been maintained at the business group and business area levels, where business area specific issues have been consulted, including HM Courts Services (HMCS).

The budgets for business groups for 2009-10 will be published in the MOJ Corporate Plan on 19 January 2009, a copy of which together with other performance and efficiency related communications to staff will be shared with the unions ahead of wider circulation. The Corporate Plan will also be available in the Library of the House.

Following issue of the Corporate Plan, business groups will work in earnest to develop their own business plans. These plans will address in detail how the Department will meet the performance and efficiency challenges. Going forward consultation will take place with the unions at a local level or, when appropriate, at a corporate level. For example the chief executive of HMCS plans to discuss budgetary allocations with the unions on 17 February.

The recent pre-Budget report contained an announcement of an additional £5 billion value for money saving to be delivered in 2010-11 across the public sector. Decisions have yet to be made as to how those savings will be allocated between Departments but once this is clear we will need to consider the implications for us. This means it will be a little while before we can publish figures for that year. Once they have settled, we will share again details of the allocations with union colleagues.

Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of each of the responses to his Department's recent consultation on the implementation of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. [243975]

Bridget Prentice: There have been several consultations by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) relating to the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The consultation "Transforming Tribunals Implementing Part 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007" ran from November 2007 to February 2008. Responses were published on the 19 May 2008. A copy of the response document was placed in the Library of both Houses.

The consultation "Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007— Eligibility for judicial appointment" ran from February to April 2008 and responses were published on the 27 August. The response document is available on the MoJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations-with-response.htm.

A copy of the response document will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

The consultation "Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: setting the parameters" ran from January to April 2008 and a response paper will be published shortly.

As with most MoJ consultations, all of these consultation papers contained a standard confidentiality clause. The individual responses of consultees, that did not indicate

to the contrary, would therefore be available in an anonymised version from the MoJ for the first two consultations mentioned above. The response paper for the "Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: setting the parameters" consultation has not yet been published.

Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much has been distributed from the Victims Fund in each year since its creation in 2004; [249662]

(2) which specialist services for victims of particular types of crime have received funding from the Government in each of the last five years; and how much was granted in each case. [249663]

Maria Eagle: Organisations providing specialist services for victims of crime receive resources from a wide range of funding streams. Information on this funding is not collated or held centrally.

The Victims Fund was established in 2004 to help top-up local funding for specialist services for victims of crime. The following table shows the total distribution since its commencement:

	£	
2004-05	1.25 million	Sexual Violence Third Sector
	280,000 to date	Hate Crime and Homicide initiatives
Total	1.53million	
2005-06	1.25 million	Sexual Violence Third Sector
	550,000	Hate Crime and Homicide initiatives
Total	1.8 million	
2006-07	1.25 million	Sexual Violence and Abuse Third Sector
2003-06 to 2006-07	4 million	Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Sexual Violence Third Sector

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the Government is taking to reduce reoffending among young offenders. [249479]

Mr. Hanson: There has been an 18.7 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of youth reoffending between 2000 and 2006. The Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008 details the cross-Government approach to reducing youth crime, including youth reoffending. It sets out a 'triple track' approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention. The Youth Justice Board leads on the target of a 10 per cent. reduction by 2011 of the frequency rate of youth reoffending against the 2005 baseline, and is working with Departments, to influence the key services to ensure young people have access to mainstream and specialist services before, during and after justice.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged 11 to 18 years resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were treated for alcohol-related problems in each of the last five years. [249063]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. Data are available for treatment of alcohol-related health problems, the number of admissions to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems. An individual may account for more than one admission.

While it is possible to analyse the admissions data to determine the number of individuals aged 11-18 years admitted to hospital for alcohol and alcohol-related health problems, this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The following table gives the number of alcohol-related finished admissions for patients aged 11-18 by primary care trust (PCT) in the Hertfordshire area for each year from 2002-03 to 2006-07. 2006-07 is the latest year for which data are available. The figures relate to the number of admissions rather than the number of individuals: an individual may account for more than one admission.

Number of alcohol-related finished admissions for patients aged 11 to 18 resident in Hertfordshire

PCT	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
East and North Hertfordshire	104	94	104	99	102
West Hertfordshire	107	110	114	82	122

Notes:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Small numbers
To protect patient confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.
Alcohol-related admissions
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) "Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions".
Figures for under-16s only include admissions where one or more alcohol-specific conditions were listed. This is because the research on which the attributable fractions are based does not cover under-16s. Alcohol-specific conditions are those that are wholly attributed to alcohol—that is, those with an attributable fraction of one. They are:
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (142.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9).
Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis
These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
Data Quality
HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Antidepressants

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of anti-depressant drugs prescribing in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England in the last 12 months. [249542]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides the net ingredient cost (NIC) of anti-depressant drugs prescribed in the community listed in British National Formulary (BNF) section 4.3 for the latest available 12 month period. Information is only available by health area and the information provided best fits the areas requested.

NIC of anti-depressant drugs listed in BNF section 4.3.— November 2007 to October 2008

	£000
Stockton on Tees Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	1,087.7
Middlesbrough PCT	1,179.9
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	941.1
North East Strategic Health Authority	16,814.4
England	245,556.7

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (ePACT) system

Aphasia: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has commissioned into the causes and treatment of aphasia. [249823]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has funded the following current or recently completed projects of relevance to aphasia:

assessing the effectiveness of communication therapy in the North West (Dr. Audrey Bowen, university of Manchester);

the phoneme factory: producing a multimedia screening and therapy system for children with phonological disorders (Professor Sue Roulstone, North Bristol NHS Trust);

speech-driven environmental control systems: new assistive technologies for disabled and elderly people (Professor Mark Hawley, university of Sheffield and Barnsley Hospitals NHS Trust); and

evaluating communication impairment using technology-based transcriptionless discourse analysis measures: a demonstration of reliability and validity (Dr. Marian Brady, Glasgow Caledonian university).

The NIHR clinical research network is also supporting a number of related studies. Details are available on the network's portfolio database at:

www.ukcrn.org.uk/index/clinical/portfolio_new.html

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant in aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Over the last five years, the MRC has funded four projects relevant to aphasia:

finding the right words: predicting, and treating, spoken language production deficits after aphasic stroke (Dr. J. Crinion, University college London);

normal and disordered language comprehension: a cognitive science approach (Professor L. Tyler, Birkbeck college);

neural basis of words, meaning and syntax (Professor F. Pulvermuller, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit); and

stroke recovery (Professor R. Wise, MRC Clinical Sciences Centre).

Chronic Disease Management

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Expert Patients programme course places there have been in each year since the programme was established; and what proportion of these course places were specific to musculoskeletal problems. [249268]

Ann Keen: Expert Patients Programme Community Interest Company was established in April 2007. For the period April 2007 to March 2008 they report that the number of course places delivered was 24,660. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available. The Expert Patients Programme is a generic course and is open to anyone with a long term condition. Details are not available relating to the specific conditions that course participants live with, however Expert Patients Programme Community Interest Company estimate that 25 per cent. of course places are taken by people with musculoskeletal conditions.

Chronically Sick: Pupils

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent guidance his Department has given to primary care trusts on advice and support for teachers in *(a)* developing school policy and *(b)* providing support to individual pupils to assist children and young people discussed with long-term conditions to manage their condition effectively in schools. [250602]

Ann Keen: In March 2005, the Department of Children Schools and Families (DCSF) published "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings" with contributions from Department of Health. However, that guidance was for teachers rather than primary care trusts (PCTs). The National Service Framework for Children, Families and Maternity (Children's NSF), published in 2004 included guidance for health and social care professionals as well as parents and children on managing long term conditions. For children with diabetes, the report 'Making every young person with diabetes matter' included a generic specification for children and young people. This included a section on managing diabetes in schools and early years settings. A copy of the report has already been placed in the Library.

Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost is of testing for vCJD all those considered potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [247050]

(2) how many and what proportion of those considered to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS have been informed of their at risk status; and if he will make a statement; [247051]

(3) how many haemophiliacs are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement; [247052]

(4) how many people are estimated to be potentially at risk of having contracted vCJD after using infected blood products under the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [247053]

Dawn Primarolo: There are between 4,000 and 5,000 people, mostly haemophiliacs, currently considered at risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease because of exposure or potential exposure via blood products. The haemophiliacs have been informed of their risk status by the haemophilia doctors managing their care, and the general practitioners of those who are not haemophiliacs have been informed of the need to advise their patients appropriately. The cost of testing this group, should suitable tests become available, has not been estimated.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) in what circumstances a dentist may charge a patient for *(a)* descaling and *(b)* cleaning and polishing after the first-tier check up; [247537]

(2) if he will initiate an investigation into the practice of dentists charging patients for descaling, cleaning and polishing following the first-tier check up; and if he will make a statement; [247538]

(3) how many NHS dental patients *(a)* were charged for and *(b)* received free under the NHS descaling, cleaning and polishing following the first-tier treatment in the latest period for which information is available. [247626]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, the number of courses of treatment delivered to charge payers and non-charge payers by treatment band in 2007-08 is available in Table 25 of "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08".

This publication has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

National health service dental contracts require dentists to provide all proper clinically necessary dental care and treatment that the patient is willing to undergo. A band 1 course of treatment (diagnosis, treatment planning and maintenance) includes examination, diagnosis (for example x-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and scaling and polishing if clinically needed. Fee paying NHS patients will be charged £16.20 for a band 1 course of treatment. Those exempt from NHS charges receive treatment without charge.

Patients who are assessed as not clinically needing a scale and polish are free to obtain it privately. As with any treatment if there is no clinical need for the patient to receive a scale and polish it is entirely appropriate that it is provided, if at all, outside the NHS.

We take very seriously the need to ensure that all NHS patients receive clinically appropriate treatment. A dentist who identified a clinical need for a scale and polish under NHS treatment and then refused such care would be potentially in breach of contract. The NHS Business Services Authority is enhancing the role of the dental reference service to ensure that primary care trusts (PCTs) have the tools to check that dental care provided is appropriate to patients' needs. Patients who have concerns about any aspect of their dental care should in the first instance raise this with the practice and then if not satisfied, with the PCT.

The independent review of NHS dentistry chaired by Professor Jimmy Steele will also look at how we can ensure that NHS dentists deliver consistently high quality care and provide the right level of preventative work. Professor Steele is due to publish his findings later in the year.

Direct Payments

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England are eligible to receive direct payments; and how many of them have taken them up. [250173]

Phil Hope: Since 2003, councils have had a duty to offer direct payments to people found eligible for social services support. During 2007-08, around 1.75 million people of working age and older people used social care services either provided by their local council or commissioned on their behalf from private and voluntary organisations. As at March 2008, 73,540 people, including carers, used direct payments to buy the help they wanted.

Diseases: Children

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the incidence of *(a)* diphtheria, *(b)* tetanus and *(c)* pertussis, *(d)* Haemophilus influenzae type b, *(e)* polio, *(f)* meningitis C, *(g)* measles, *(h)* mumps, *(i)* rubella and *(j)* acellular pertussis was amongst children in (i) London and (ii) the rest of England in each of the last three years. [249793]

Dawn Primarolo: The information given is for the last three years for which data is available, and is set out in the following table. Data included in this table refers to the incidence of infections in children up to 15 years of age.

	2005		2006		2007	
	London	*Rest of England*	*London*	*Rest of England*	*London*	*Rest of England*
Diphtheria[1]	1	0	0	2	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis[2]	27	391	42	322	37	359
Haemophilus Influenzae type b	4	41	6	42	9	31
Polio	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis C	0	3	1	5	1	8
Measles[3]	30	29	195	334	345	422
Mumps[3]	220	1,823	67	322	21	137
Rubella[3]	2	5	1	1	2	5

[1] Isolation of toxigenic Corynebacterium diphtheriae or C ulcerans.
[2] Notified cases of whooping cough. Acellular pertussis is a vaccine not a disease.
[3] The number includes cases confirmed by both oral fluid IgM antibody tests and other laboratory reported cases.

Diseases: EU Action

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking in response to the European Commission's November 2008 Communication 'on Rare Diseases, Europe's Challenges, COM (2008) 679. [249521]

Dawn Primarolo: We broadly welcome the Council's Communication on Rare Diseases and the opportunity it presents for gathering further expertise, exchange of information and best practice between member states. United Kingdom Government representatives are now involved in continuing negotiations at the European Council about an EC recommendation about action on rare diseases, which we understand is intended to be published under the Czech presidency.

Health Hazards: Lighting

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* undertaken on the effects of the use of low-energy fluorescent bulbs on public health. [249874]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) advises the Department on scientific matters concerning optical radiation including low energy light bulbs. The HPA tested a sample of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and found that some emitted ultraviolet radiation which could, under certain conditions, expose people above international guidelines. As a result of its findings, the HPA issued precautionary advice on 9 October 2008 to the general public concerning the use of open CFLs in close-working situations. The HPA's advice can be found at:

www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1223445516605?p=1153822623869

The HPA's research was considered alongside other available evidence to inform a report by the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR). SCENIHR's opinion on light sensitivity can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/scenihr_opinions_en.htm

During 2008, the Department undertook a literature review on lighting and light sensitive and neurological conditions.

HIV Infection

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he intends to respond to the resolution of the European Parliament of 20 November 2008, addressed to all member states, on HIV/AIDS: early diagnosis and early care. [248328]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is already responding to the actions for member states set out in the European Parliament's resolution on HIV and AIDS. HIV testing remains free and confidential and the Department continues to fund awareness campaigns for men-who-have-sex-with-men and African communities, the groups most at risk of HIV in the UK. These awareness campaigns are additional to the Condom Essential Wear campaign which targets young adults. The Department also funds the National AIDS Manual and the Terrence Higgins Trust for information and helpline services on HIV treatment and living with HIV. This year, the Department is also investing £1.4 million in new work to reduce undiagnosed HIV.

The Disability Discrimination Act provides protection for people with HIV in employment, education and in the provision of goods and services. There are no restrictions on the freedom of movement of people with HIV in the United Kingdom.

Mental Health Services: Prisoners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have been transferred from prison to hospital for psychiatric care since 1997. [242408]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the number of transfers of mentally ill prisoners to more appropriate care in hospital under the Mental Health Act:

	Number of prisoners
1997	757
1998	737
1999	732
2000	664
2001	670
2002	723
2003	786
2004	891
2005	900
2006	961
2007	926

Source:
Ministry of Justice.

In 2007 the Department launched guidelines and conducted 17 pilots across the country to test more efficient protocols for speedier transfer. Since then the guidelines show a 28 per cent. improvement in transfer times and the Department plans to consider how this improvement could be rolled out across all prison sites.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national public health information his Department has provided to patients on the self-management of musculoskeletal conditions since publication of his Department's Musculoskeletal Services Framework on 12 July 2006. [249156]

Ann Keen: In October 2006 the Department in conjunction with the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA) published, Information for people with bone and joint problems, this document has been placed in the Library. The NHS Choices website also gives guidance on the self-management of long-term conditions which can be found at:

www.nhs.uk/YourHealth/Pages/Livingwithyourcondition.aspx.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with joint pain he estimates referred themselves to a *(a)* physiotherapist, *(b)* chiropractor and *(c)* osteopath without first visiting a GP in each year since 2005. [249251]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such estimates.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what national data are available to support primary care trusts in benchmarking local intervention rates in trauma and orthopaedics, as referred to on page 46 of his Department's Musculoskeletal Services Framework of July 2006. [249160]

Ann Keen: The 18 week programme has developed over 43 common commissioning pathways to support primary care trusts in commissioning services for their populations. In relation to trauma and orthopaedics pathways have been developed for carpal tunnel syndrome, hip, knee, shoulder and back pain which primary care trusts are using to plan for and manage demand for local services.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence assesses the implementation of its guidelines; and whether there are any plans to change those procedures. [248840]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) does not routinely monitor the uptake or implementation of guidance by individual national health service organisations as this is currently the role of the Healthcare Commission.

NICE's clinical guidelines are developmental standards for NHS organisations and the Government expect them to be fully implemented over time. In 2006-07, NHS organisations were asked to assess themselves against the 'clinical and cost-effectiveness' developmental standard which takes account of NICE's clinical guidelines. The self-assessments were independently validated by the Healthcare Commission and showed that 90 per cent. of NHS organisations were making excellent, good or fair progress towards implementing NICE's clinical guidelines.

From April 2009, the Care Quality Commission will take over from the Healthcare Commission and will consider, in discussion with stakeholders including NICE, how to take account of NICE guidance as it develops its compliance criteria.

Prostate Cancer

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 523-4W, on prostate cancer, when the most recent round of peer review visits were carried out; what percentage of prostate cancer patients are being managed by multi-disciplinary team meetings; and what percentage of primary care trusts are managing all their prostate cancer patients by multi-disciplinary team meetings throughout their care. [250415]

Ann Keen: The most recent round of national cancer peer reviews took place from November 2004 to March 2007. Peer review looks at multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) by cancer network not by primary care trust.

The most recent round of national cancer peer review showed that in 90 per cent. of local urology MDTs and in 94 per cent. of specialist urology MDTs, all new urological patients, including prostate cancer patients, were reviewed by the MDTs.

The information requested on the management of patients by MDTs throughout their care is not available centrally.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital for rheumatoid arthritis there were in each year since 1991-92, broken down by *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* primary care trust area. [249254]

Ann Keen: Unfortunately we are unable to provide time series data as far back as 1991-92 as the quality of coverage of primary care trust of residence reduces heavily. Data from 1996-97 to 2006-07 have therefore been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of regular smokers in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire and *(b)* number of people who have given up smoking in each of these areas over the last 12 months. [249056]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. Data are available for West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and East and North Hertfordshire PCT. Hemel Hempstead is covered by East and North Hertfordshire PCT.

Estimated prevalence of smokers among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals for West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT are available from "Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours: Model Based Estimates, 2003-2005. 2006 Health Hierarchy" and can be viewed at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statisticsanddatacollections/populationandgeography/neighbourhoodstatistics/neighbourhood-statistics:-model-based-estimates-of-healthy-lifestyle-behaviours-at-pco-level-2003-05

Information on the number of people who successfully quit smoking at the four week follow up (based on self report) in West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT in the last year 2007-08 are available from the "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services: England, April 2007 to March 2008", Table 3.5, pages 28-30. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults aged 35 years and over were admitted to hospital with diseases caused by smoking in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2006-07. [249062]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. Data for 1996-97 are unavailable. Data is not collected for Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire. Data for East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and West Hertfordshire PCT are available for 2006-07. Hemel Hempstead is covered by East and North Hertfordshire PCT.

Figures are available and provided on the number of admissions in national health service hospitals for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those admissions that are attributable to smoking.

The following table shows the number of admissions for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of various diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those admissions that can be attributed to smoking. Figures have been provided for 2006-07 in East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT. It is acknowledged that not all of the observed admissions included in the table will be

attributable to smoking as there are other contributory factors to these diseases. Therefore the relative risks of these diseases for current and ex-smokers, compared to non-smokers have been used to estimate smoking-attributable admissions.

NHS[1] hospital admissions[2] for primary diagnosis[3] of diseases that can be caused by smoking and those attributable to smoking, 2006-07

Number

	Observed admissions[4]	*Smoking attributable admissions[5]*
East and North Hertfordshire	11,733	3,400
West Hertfordshire	12,834	3,500

[1] The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals)
[2] A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
[3] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
[4] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data. Observed admissions only includes those where gender was recorded.
[5] Estimated attributable number, rounded to the nearest 100.
Notes:
1. Figures exclude records where gender was unknown or not specified as relative risks used to calculate attributable admissions are gender specific.
2. Figures exclude records where country of residence was not confirmed as England.
Source:
NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Social Services: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of care services met each of the Commission for Social Care Inspection's national minimum standards in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area in 2007-08. [249803]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection that information is available broken down by type of service—each has its own set of national minimum standards—for the most recently completed inspection year, which ended on 31 March 2008.

This information has been placed in the Library.

Suicide

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the cost to primary care trusts of carrying out suicide audits; and if he will make a statement; [250394]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of removing suicide audits from the star ratings performance assessment of primary care trusts in ensuring primary care trusts undertake comprehensive suicide audits; and if he will make a statement; [250395]

(3) how many primary care trusts conducted suicide audits in each year from 2002 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [250396]

Phil Hope: No assessment on either the cost to primary care trusts (PCTs) in carrying out suicide audits or the effect of removing suicide audits from the Annual Health Check performance assessment of PCTs has been made. The mental health National Service Framework, published in 1999, made it a requirement for all local services to develop a local system for suicide audit to learn lessons from suicides and take necessary action. We published a toolkit "Suicide audit in Primary Care Trust localities" in October 2006 to support them in this task. A copy has been placed in the Library. The information on the number of PCTs conducting suicide audits is not collected centrally.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health authorities in Greater London provide free BCG vaccinations to all children. [248491]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccinations in London is available by primary care trust (PCT). The following PCTs in the London strategic health authority provide BCG vaccinations to all children:

Brent;
Camden;
City and Hackney;
Ealing;
Greenwich;
Hammersmith and Fulham;
Haringey;
Harrow;
Hillingdon;
Hounslow;
Islington;
Kensington and Chelsea;
Lambeth;
Lewisham;
Newham;
Redbridge;
Southwark;
Tower Hamlets;
Waltham Forest; and
Westminster.

Vaccination: Religious Practice

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the vaccines for *(a)* diptheria, *(b)* tetanus, *(c)* pertussis, *(d)* polio, *(e)* Haemophilus influenza type b, *(f)* pneumococcal conjugate, *(g)* meningitis C, *(h)* MMR and *(i)* HPV available for use by GPs are halal; what halal alternatives are available for those which are not; and if he will make a statement. [247899]

Dawn Primarolo: Vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b, pneumococcal, Meningitis C, and HPV do not contain gelatine according to the summary of product characteristics provided by the manufacturers. Two MMR vaccines are available; one MMR vaccine—MMRVAXPRO—contains gelatine, the other MMR vaccine—Priorix—does not contain gelatine.

Vaccines that contain gelatine may not be considered halal. However, the Muslim Council of Britain supports the use of these vaccines and has always advised that vaccination must always be offered to all individuals identified to be at risk of communicable disease in order to prevent disease and deaths and have urged the Muslim community to continue to participate in the immunisation programmes to protect our children and adults from serious and potentially fatal infections.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248390]

Mr. Scott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies have supplied the Prime Minister's Office in each of the last three years; and how much was paid to each of those suppliers in each of those three years. [248791]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office's Total Facilities Management (TFM) contract is with EcovertFM. Other companies that have been used to supply food and drink can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fuels: Excise Duties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations he has received on the effects on the voluntary sector of increased fuel duty. [250356]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Security

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many representations have been received by the House authorities from back-bench hon. Members on security matters relating specifically to *(a)* themselves, *(b)* their family and *(c)* their property in the last five years. [250382]

Nick Harvey: It is not the policy of the House authorities to answer questions on security matters.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for offences relating to the trafficking of human beings for *(a)* the sex trade and *(b)* illegal labour in each year since 1997. [241045]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Human trafficking was criminalised with the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004.

While the numbers of prosecutions for the offences of human trafficking is not held centrally by the Home Office there have to date been 92 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation and four for trafficking for forced labour.

Police Stations: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations in Essex were not open to the public in each of the last 10 years. [250151]

Mr. Coaker: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for Essex police authority and the Chief Constable of Essex, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Dual Jobholding

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines apply to police officers on involvement in business activities outside their employment within the police force; and whether she plans to revise those guidelines. [249816]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Police Regulations 2003 police officers must declare and obtain approval from their chief police officer for undertaking business interests. We have no plans to change existing policy.

Stop and Search

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people under 18 years of age have been stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000 in each of the last eight years. [250309]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number of persons stopped and searched under section 44 (sections 1 and 2) of the Terrorism Act 2000, from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 (latest available) are provided in the following table.

From the information reported to the Home Office it is not possible to separately identify the age of persons searched.

Searches of pedestrians, vehicles and occupants under sections 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000[1], 1999-2000 to 2006-07, England and Wales

Stops and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism	Total searches
1999-2000	1,900
2000-01	6,400
2001-02	10,200
2002-03	32,100
2003-04	33,800
2004-05[2]	37,000
2005-06	50,000
2006-07	41,900

[1] Formerly sections 13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 and repealed under the Terrorism Act 2000 (which came into force on 19 February 2001).
[2] Figures updated since publication of the 2004-05 Bulletin.

Telecommunications: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated *(a)* set-up and *(b)* running costs of the interception modernisation programme are. [250530]

Mr. Coaker: The Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP) will require a substantial level of investment which will need to tie in with the Government's three year CSR periods. The scale of overall economic investment is very difficult to calculate because of the complexity of the programme and wide ranging implementation solutions currently being considered.

Given the commercial and national security sensitivities, the precise costs of the programme cannot be disclosed. Further detail on budgetary estimates for the IMP will however become available once the public consultation process (announced by the Home Secretary on 15 October 2008) commences.

Terrorism

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the proportion of an anti-terrorist police officer's time taken up *(a)* by anti-terrorist work and *(b)* in the detection of other forms of criminal activity. [249878]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold such information centrally. Significant Government investment has enabled the police service to establish a network of dedicated police counter terrorism units. Specialist officers within those units, while focused on counter terrorism work, remain under the direction and control of local chief officers.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Overseas Workers

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of money laundering prevention measures on the availability of UK bank accounts to UK citizens living and working abroad. [244994]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 December 2008]:* I am advised that money laundering requirements, principally the Money Laundering Regulations 2007, and other anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance legislation, are not a determining factor in banks' decisions to make available UK personal current accounts or savings accounts to persons without an address in the UK. I understand that decisions are taken largely on commercial grounds.

Banks: EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the monetary value of the loans made available to United Kingdom banks by the European Investment Bank (EIB) under the scheme announced on 30 October 2008 was on 12 January 2008; which United Kingdom banks have applied for funds; when each first applied; how much each received from the EIB; how many businesses have accessed the funds from each; and what the average number of employees of these businesses is. [248586]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Since 30 October 2008, the following EIB loans for SMEs have been agreed between the EIB and UK banks:

Barclays signed a £150 million loan on 16 December 2008;

HBOS signed a £250 million loan on 18 December 2008; and

RBS signed a £250 million loan on 23 December 2008.

This means that since the reform by the EIB of its SME financing products in September 2008, a total of £1 billion of EIB loans for SMEs were made available by the end of last year. Further negotiations with a number of UK banks for additional new lending are ongoing.

The Government do not currently hold information on the number of firms to have accessed the agreed funding. The Government continue to work closely with all UK banks to monitor their progress on drawing down and disbursing EIB loans.

With regard to the number of employees of recipient SMEs, EIB rules state that its funding is available for businesses with 250 employees or less, consistent with the European Commission's definition of SMEs.

Banks: Government Assistance

David Howarth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the oral statement of 19 January 2009, on financial markets, by what authority he has authorised the Bank of England to create the £50 billion fund to purchase corporate assets from banks. [250206]

Ian Pearson: Arrangements for the Debt Management Office (DMO) to make finance available to the Bank of England are set out in paragraph 6.9 of the Debt and Reserves Management Report 2008-09.

Banks: Guernsey

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what conditions the Financial Services Authority attached to its approval of the sale by the Portman Building Society of its Guernsey subsidiary to Landsbanki; [248334]

(2) what discussions the Financial Services Authority (FSA) had with the Portman Building Society on its application to establish a wholly-owned banking subsidiary in Guernsey; and what assurances the FSA received in respect of *(a)* the terms of business of the subsidiary and *(b)* the protection and indemnification of depositors. [248336]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 569W.

Banks: Iceland

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has made on behalf of *(a)* Guernsey, *(b)* Jersey and *(c)* the Isle of Man to the Icelandic Government on the consequences of the Icelandic banking collapses in 2008. [249182]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Jersey does not have a branch or subsidiary of an Icelandic bank, and is therefore not part of these discussions.

Banks: Isle of Man

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take urgent steps to protect UK citizens who had deposits in Isle of Man banks. [247845]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for New Forest, West (Mr. Swayne) on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 539W.

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions the Financial Services Authority (FSA) had with the Derbyshire Building Society on its application to establish a wholly-owned banking subsidiary in the Isle of Man; and what assurances the FSA received in respect of *(a)* the terms of business of the subsidiary and *(b)* the protection and indemnification of depositors; [248335]

(2) what conditions the Financial Services Authority attached to its approval of the sale by the Derbyshire Building Society of its Isle of Man subsidiary to Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. [248337]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings Ministers in his Department have held to review *(a)* capital ratios and *(b)* liquidity requirements for banks in the last three months. [249553]

Ian Pearson: As the Memorandum of Understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the tripartite authorities have regular meetings to work together towards the common objective of financial stability in the UK.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what provisions the Government is making for any future *(a)* losses and *(b)* capital requirement of banks in which UK Financial Investments has a stake; [249556]

(2) how his Department plans to account for any *(a)* profits earned and *(b)* losses sustained by (i) the Royal Bank of Scotland and (ii) Northern Rock. [249559]

Ian Pearson: UK Financial Investments Limited (UKFI), which is wholly owned by the Government, manages the Government's investments in the recapitalised banks but ownership of the shares of the recapitalised banks still lies with HM Treasury.

The Government will assess the need for any impairment or profit on our investments in the banks in accordance with our accounting policies and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). Any amounts will be disclosed in HM Treasury's Resource Accounts in due course.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what instructions the Government has issued to the Royal Bank of Scotland in the last six months; [249563]

(2) how many meetings Ministers in his Department have held with *(a)* staff and *(b)* directors of the Royal Bank of Scotland in the last six months. [249564]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many meetings Ministers in his Department have had with *(a)* directors and *(b)* staff of Northern Rock since its entering into temporary public ownership; [249565]

(2) what the policy of Northern Rock is on the payment of bonuses to *(a)* staff and *(b)* directors in respect of (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009; [249600]

(3) how many *(a)* employees and *(b)* directors of Northern Rock were paid more than £100,000 in 2008; [249601]

(4) what Northern Rock's level of mortgage lending is; and what it was in January 2008. [249602]

Ian Pearson: During this period of temporary public ownership, Northern Rock is managed by its Board at arm's length from the Government on commercial principles. It is a matter for the company's management to release specific business updates or provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Under the Northern Rock Shareholder Relationship Framework Document the Government require that executive incentivisation be linked to delivery of the objectives set out in the business plan. Individual executive bonuses are for the Board's Remuneration Committee to determine, taking account of performance against the objectives set in the business plan. Staff pay and incentivisation arrangements are a matter for the company.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Bank of England and *(c)* the Financial Services Authority have made into securitisation practices (i) in the UK and (ii) by British companies internationally. [249657]

Ian Pearson: The tripartite authorities have been working in both national and international forums to produce analysis and policy recommendations on improving the operation of securitisation markets and enhancing transparency and valuation. Details of these can be found in 'Financial stability and depositor protection: strengthening the framework', published in January 2008 (Cm7308), 'Financial stability and depositor protection: further consultation', published in July 2008 (Cm7436). Furthermore, on 9 April 2008, the Chancellor announced that Sir James Crosby would provide advice to the Government on options for improving the function of mortgage finance markets, working closely with mortgage industry experts. This was published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report on 24 November and sets out Sir James' recommendations.

The documents can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/financial_stability_depositor.htm

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/financial_stability_framework.htm

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/fin_mort_crosby.htm

Child Tax Credit

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 275W, how much his Department has spent on child tax credit payment to individuals subject to control orders in each year since 2005. [249499]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available in the format requested. Applications for child tax credit do not establish whether an applicant is subject to a control order. This information is therefore not readily available.

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to issue a report on funding assistance for the repair of church buildings. [248147]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

Work to finalise a report jointly written by Government Departments and the Church of England is ongoing. Its primary purpose is to explore and address any barriers that exist to places of worship accessing funding to support community action projects.

The report will set out the funding assistance available to faith-based and other third sector organisations to support community initiatives that could be used for enhancements to places of worship.

The report will be published in the coming weeks and I will arrange for copies to be laid in the Libraries of both Houses.

Derbyshire Building Society

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that guarantees by Derbyshire Building Society which were transferred to the Icelandic government are honoured in full. [249669]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* Derbyshire Offshore (the trading name for Derbyshire Building Society's Isle of Man subsidiary) was established in the Isle of Man in 1990 and was regulated by the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Economic and Monetary Union

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the President of the European Commission on Britain's prospective membership of the euro. [249540]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in other countries, as well as the European Commission. The Government's policy on membership of the single currency is unchanged. It remains as set out by the Chancellor in his statement to the House of Commons in October 1997, and again in the Chancellor's statement on the five tests assessment in June 2003.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on the terms on which *(a)* banks and *(b)* building societies will contribute to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme levy; and if he will make a statement. [250372]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme is an independent organisation set up under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. It is responsible for setting levies on firms within the rules and limits set by the Financial Services Authority. These rules also specify the levies that may be collected from each class of firm and the apportionment of levies between individual firms within each class.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Government Contracts

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Office of Government Commerce's guidance on including general break clauses in government contracts. [250483]

Angela Eagle: The guidance has been placed in the Library.

Income Tax

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many higher rate income tax payers there are in each parliamentary constituency. [249694]

Mr. Timms: The number of individual income taxpayers by constituency can be found in table 3.15 'Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency' on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2005-06 is currently the latest available. Estimates for 2006-07 will be published at the end of January.

Reliable information on the number of higher rate taxpayers at constituency level is not currently available.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander: Isle of Man

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the potential liability to the public purse of guaranteeing the deposits of UK citizens in the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man bank for *(a)* all deposits, *(b)* deposits up to £50,000 and *(c)* deposits up to £100,000. [247844]

Ian Pearson: Deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme. This scheme is administered by the Isle of Man authorities.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to protect investors who originally banked with the Derbyshire Building Society but who subsequently found themselves customers of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man bank. [247846]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1902W.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Isle of Man authorities on UK citizens' savings that were deposited with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man bank. [247848]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the government of the Isle of Man regarding funding to enable the Isle of Man to compensate British depositors with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander. [249670]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme.

Landsbanki: Guernsey

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the collapse of Landsbanki Guernsey. [243801]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in Guernsey are a matter for the Government of Guernsey.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will meet representatives of UK nationals who were depositors with Landsbanki Guernsey to discuss their position. [249894]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Members: Correspondence

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter of 27 October 2008 from the hon. Member for Hazel Grove on a constituent's difficulties regarding the collapse of Lansbanki. [249299]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Clare Short: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's letter of 28 November 2008 on behalf of Gordon Ferguson of the Kaupthing Banking Group. [249558]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to introduce a single on-line pre-qualification questionnaire for small businesses to access public procurement projects. [249843]

Angela Eagle: The Glover Committee report, "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine" published on the HMT website in November 2008, made 12 recommendations to improve SME access to public procurement including:

"Qualification criteria that are not specific to a sector should be standardised and incorporated in all pre-qualification questionnaires so that businesses do not need to repeatedly submit the same core information in different formats."

Government are currently implementing these recommendations.

Revenue and Customs: Leicester

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* redundancy payments to staff who are unable to relocate and *(b)* daily travel allowance payments to staff relocating to other offices resulting from HM Revenue and Customs' decision to close two offices in Leicester; and what the estimated annual saving in accommodation costs as a result of the closure of these two offices is. [249414]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is vacating one office in Leicester, Attenborough House. Enkalon House, which formerly housed one member of HMRC staff, has already been vacated.

HMRC expects staff to relocate with their teams to another office within reasonable daily travel, almost all of them to one of the two offices in Leicester that are being retained, Saxon House and City Gate House. Daily Travel Assistance (DTA) may be payable to individual members of staff who incur additional costs in commuting to a new office. The total cost of DTA for staff relocating from Attenborough House will not be known until solutions have been found for all staff involved, but is unlikely to be substantial. As HMRC expects that staff will relocate, no estimate has been made of potential redundancy costs.

The closure of Attenborough House, Leicester will contribute to estimated estate savings of £10.4 million per year in the east midlands. These savings are only part of the overall savings HMRC expects to achieve as a result of business efficiencies arising from restructuring.

HMRC is unable to disclose the estate savings for a particular office on grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if HM Revenue and Customs will establish a hotline for hon. Members to contact them on behalf of constituents on matters other than tax credits. [249660]

Mr. Timms: A list of HMRC helplines for hon. Members is available on the parliamentary website.

HMRC operates a child benefit helpline for hon. Members as well as one for tax credits. There are no current plans to expand telephone hotline services for hon. Members but the situation is kept under review.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue received by the Exchequer in stamp duty land tax since the announcement of the stamp duty holiday in September 2008; what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the stamp duty holiday; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the stamp duty holiday on the housing market. [249305]

Ian Pearson: Since the advent of the stamp duty land tax holiday in September stamp duty land tax receipts for the three months from September to November 2008 have amounted to £1.1 billion.

The estimated exchequer cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday, published in the pre-Budget report, was £280 million.

It is too early to make an assessment of the effect of the stamp duty land tax holiday on the housing market.

Tax Credit

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the effect on public expenditure of removing the second income threshold on tax credits and applying a consistent taper rate of *(a)* 46 per cent., *(b)* 45 per cent., *(c)* 44 per cent. and *(d)* 43 per cent. in each of the next five years; if he will estimate the number of people who would no longer be eligible for tax credits in each case; and if he will make a statement. [249567]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The estimated saving, in 2009-10 to 2013-14, of removing the second income threshold and applying a consistent taper rate at each of the rates requested, is provided in the following table. No account has been taken of possible behavioural effects.

Effect on expenditure

£ million

Taper rate	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
46 per cent.	-2,590	-2,670	-2,670	-2,750	-2,810
45 per cent.	-2,380	-2,460	-2,460	-2,520	-2,570
44 per cent.	-2,160	-2,230	-2,230	-2,280	-2,310
43 per cent.	-1,930	-2,000	-1,990	-2,020	-2,040

These changes would not affect the number of claimants eligible for tax credits. However, they would increase the number of claimants with awards reduced to zero.

Taxation: Part-time Employment

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of providing tax exemptions to encourage part-time work, with particular reference to the likely effects of such a policy on small businesses. [249840]

Mr. Timms: The decision to employ part- or full-time employees is a commercial decision, specific to the circumstances of the employer.

National insurance contributions are paid proportionately on the hours an employee works, whether part- or full-time.

The Part Time Workers Directive means that part-time workers cannot be treated any less favourably than comparable full-time workers.

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many taxpayers were penalised £100 for late tax returns for the tax year 2006-07; and how many of them appealed *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully against that penalty. [250199]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issued penalty notices for failing to file 2006-07 Income Tax self-assessment tax returns on time to 1,110,023 customers to the end of December 2008.

Information on the number of appeals resolved (either successfully or unsuccessfully) is not available. However, 85,175 customers had their penalty notices cancelled in that period and 317,849 customers had their penalties capped.

Taxation: Small Businesses

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received advocating the reduction of payroll taxes for small businesses; and what assessment he has made of those representations. [249841]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much funding has been frozen in the UK in each of the last five years due to suspected or proven links to terrorist organisations. [248993]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury reports quarterly to Parliament on the exercise of its powers under these orders. This report includes the total amount and number of funds frozen as at the end of each period. As of 30 September 2008, a total of 252 separate accounts containing approximately £670,000 of suspected terrorist funds were frozen in the UK. The next report, covering the period October 2008 to December 2008, will be laid shortly.

The figure is based on balances reported at the time of freezing and represents funds frozen under the Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Orders 2001 and 2006 and the Al-Qaeda and Taliban (United Nations Measures) Orders 2001 and 2006. Money may be frozen under these orders on a number of different grounds, not all of which require a suspected or proven link to a terrorist organisation.

The figure does not include action taken under other counter-terrorist legislation which are not within the remit of HM Treasury.

The Treasury does not publish a historic breakdown of frozen or unfrozen funds for each year, due to the need to avoid the identification, directly or indirectly, of personal or operationally sensitive information.

Written Ministerial Statements

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer at what time his Department makes written ministerial statements available to *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the press; and if he will make a statement. [250426]

Angela Eagle: Announcements are made in accordance with the provisions set out in the ministerial code.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty

7. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the level of fuel poverty in the UK. [249990]

Joan Ruddock: The most recently published estimate of fuel poverty shows that there were around 3.5 million fuel poor households living in the UK in 2006.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

10. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards the Government's target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [249993]

Joan Ruddock: We expect CO_2 emissions to fall to about 15 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010, taking into account the impact of credits surrendered through the EU emissions trading scheme. Our goal, which we adopted in 1997, was challenging, but that was its purpose. It was designed to give a clear signal of the direction in which policy was moving, allowing long term planning and stimulating innovative responses. In these respects it has been successful.

Nuclear Power

13. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had on Government policy for the future of nuclear power; and if he will make a statement. [249996]

Edward Miliband: Government are engaging regularly with a wide range of stakeholders on the future of nuclear new build in the UK, including industry.

I have had meetings on numerous matters concerning my energy portfolio which includes nuclear power.

Domestic Energy

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the average annual cost of domestic energy to consumers. [249998]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department publishes estimates of annual bills in its publication Quarterly Energy Prices and on the web. The estimates are based on annual usage of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas. These show that in 2008 the average bill for a consumer paying by standard credit was £975 (£405 for electricity and £570 for gas). Data split by region and by other payment methods are available in the publication.

Nuclear Generation

15. **Mr. Don Touhig:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the nuclear generation capacity that will come on-stream in the next 10 years. [249999]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our modelling projects that at the end of 2025 total nuclear capacity in most scenarios is expected to be at least 10GW, just a little lower than the current level of 11GW.

Electricity Generation

16. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect of the current economic climate on levels of expenditure on new electricity generation plants. [250000]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Along with the regulator Ofgem, I am closely monitoring the effects of the current economic climate on the energy sector, including on investment plans. There are signs of the willingness of investors to continue to develop new generation capacity with some 9 gigawatts of new electricity plant currently under construction. In addition some 3 gigawatts of new plant has received consent, while consent applications with a further 4.5 gigawatts have also been received.

Electricity Generation

17. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the UK's electricity generation capacity and *(b)* the spending required to sustain that capacity over the next 10 years. [250001]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK currently has 75 GW of installed electricity generating capacity.

There are various estimates but some industry estimates suggest that up to £100 billion investment in new electricity generation capacity will be required over the next 10 years to replace those power stations expected to close and build the new renewable generation needed to meet the electricity sector's contribution towards the EU's 2020 target for 20 per cent. of energy consumption in the UK to come from renewable energy sources.

On-Shore Wind Farms

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he next expects to meet representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss on-shore wind farms in that area. [249992]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has no planned meetings with representatives of local authorities in East Anglia to discuss onshore wind farms in that area.

Save Energy Save Money Campaign

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government's Save Energy Save Money advertising campaign; and if he will make a statement. [249994]

Joan Ruddock: The Government launched the new phase of the Act On CO_2 campaign in September 2008. Initial evaluation of the campaign has shown a favourable response with over 550,000 unique visitors to the campaign website since its launch and over 270,000 calls to the Act On CO_2 advice line between August and November 2008. This is more than double the number of calls the line received over the same period in 2007.

Smart Meters

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to encourage the provision of smart meters for domestic energy customers. [249995]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government announced on 28 October last year that we will mandate the provision of smart meters to all households. We have also set out an indicative timetable for this programme under which roll-out would be completed by the end of 2020.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has taken steps to establish an independent and effective vetting process to exclude individuals suspected of having committed crimes under international law or other human rights violations from its security forces. [246314]

Gillian Merron: The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has yet to make a serious effort to implement vetting mechanisms called for in UN Security Council resolutions 1856 (2008), 1794 and 1820.

We support ongoing work by the UN integrated Human Rights Office to document abuses by individuals in the armed and security forces, which could usefully inform work on a future vetting mechanism. We have raised the issue with Congolese authorities. Most recently, our ambassador in Kinshasa referred to the importance of vetting in the armed forces in a speech to the Congolese Parliament at the showing of a documentary on sexual violence.

Embassies: Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1048-9W, on exchange rates, which 10 overseas posts have had the greatest reduction in the purchasing power of their local budgets; and what the reduction has been in each case. [242706]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office maintains an overseas pricing movement (OPM) mechanism, intended to negate the impact of changes in exchange rates on the budgets of overseas posts. The OPM increases or decreases the sterling budget of posts when there is a change in the value of sterling relative to local currencies. This ensures that posts purchasing power is kept consistent.

The following table shows the 10 posts most affected by exchange rate fluctuations and the resulting change in budget due to the last OPM exercise completed in October 2008.

Ranking	*Country*	*Post*	*Initial budget (£)*	*OPM uplift (£)*	*New OPM uplift (percentage)*	*New budget (£)*
1	Moldova	Chisinau	276,425	94,596	34.22	371,021
2	Czech Republic	Prague	1,367,901	453,943	33.19	1,821,844
3	Poland	Warsaw	1,899,370	615,929	32.43	2,515,299
4	Georgia	Tbilisi	751,724	221,919	29.52	973,643
5	Slovakia	Bratislava	514,504	149,465	29.05	663,969
6	Israel	Tel Aviv	2,021,378	577,534	28.57	2,598,912
7	Brazil	Sao Paulo	1,741,230	334,880	19.23	2,076,110
8	Brazil	Brasilia	2,756,710	529,071	19.19	3,285,781
9	Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	1,361,791	259,488	19.05	1,621,279
10	Switzerland	Berne	2,102,964	400,347	18.70	2,542,885

Ethiopia: Eritrea

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK's role is in resolving the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute; and what *(a)* funding and *(b)* staff resources he has allocated to this function. [249350]

Gillian Merron: The UK's policy towards the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute has three aims: to avoid any return to war; for the border to be demarcated; and for the parties to normalise their relations. Ethiopia and Eritrea should agree a way forward to allow demarcation to proceed and for a normalisation process to begin, as set out in the Algiers Agreements of June and December 2000, to which both Ethiopia and Eritrea are signatories.

My right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, East (Mr. McNulty) the then Minister for Counter Terrorism and Immigration discussed the border issue when meeting the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on a visit to the horn of Africa in June 2008. My noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown also discussed this issue with the Eritrean ambassador in December 2008. In addition, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials regularly reiterate these messages to both the Ethiopian and Eritrean ambassadors to London and to their interlocutors in the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea in Addis Ababa and Asmara respectively.

From July 2000 to July 2008, we funded the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) through our assessed contributions. Our embassies in Addis Ababa and Asmara along with other members of the FCO are involved in efforts to resolve the dispute. However, as this is one of many issues with which they have to deal with, it is difficult to offer a precise figure for resources used for this purpose.

Greece: Macedonia

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic steps his Department has taken to encourage agreement between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in their negotiations on the name of FYROM. [247729]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* UN Special Representative, Matthew Nimetz, mediates negotiations between Greece and Macedonia seeking to

resolve their bilateral dispute over the 'name issue'. The UK supports this process and we regularly encourage both Greece and Macedonia to work seriously and flexibly to find a solution. Since the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit last year, Ministers and officials have discussed the matter with both our Greek and Macedonian counterparts. Our ambassadors in Athens and Skopje also regularly raise the issue at the most senior levels.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for agreement between Greece and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on the name of FYROM being reached in the near future; and if he will make a statement. [247730]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 January 2009]:* Negotiations between Greece and Macedonia on the 'name issue' are ongoing under the auspices of UN Special Representative, Matthew Nimetz. The UK is not party to the detail of these negotiations or the position taken by the two parties in the negotiations and therefore any assessment of the prospects for agreement would necessarily be speculative. However, we continue to encourage both Macedonia and Greece to engage flexibly in the negotiations and hope that they will be able to find an early solution.

Holidays Abroad: Health Services

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department provides for the families of those whose relatives *(a)* are taken ill and *(b)* die whilst on holiday abroad. [248394]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Consular staff in London and around the world can offer advice and support to the families of those whose relatives are either taken ill or die while they are overseas. In the case of illness or injury, with the individuals' permission, we can inform family and friends and keep them up to date with developments. We can also help transfer money from friends or relatives in the UK to meet any necessary costs.

In the event of a death overseas, we ask the UK police to contact the next of kin as soon as possible. Consular staff do their best to ensure that the family's wishes are carried out, for example regarding burial, cremation or bringing the body home. We can put the family in touch with local lawyers and local and international funeral directors. As with hospitalisation, we cannot pay expenses, but we can help transfer money from friends or relatives in the UK.

If the death occurred under suspicious circumstances, we can assist the family in dealing with the local police—and staff are available to meet family representatives in London. When there is an ongoing investigation overseas, we can ask a local UK police force to consider providing a family liaison officer, who advises and helps the family in dealing with the investigation.

Nigeria: Corruption

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Nigerian Government about tackling corruption in that country. [248544]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, both discussed corruption with the Nigerian Foreign Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, when he visited London on 10 December 2008. Our high commissioner and senior officials also continue to raise corruption issues with the Nigerian Government on a regular basis. The Government welcome President Yar'Adua's public commitment to the rule of law, reform and tackling corruption. We continue to work with the Nigerian Government to build an effective institutional framework to tackle corruption. This includes cross-Whitehall co-operation with the Nigerian authorities to bring individual cases to prosecution.

Somalia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Islamist forces allegedly taking control of bases in Mogadishu vacated by departing Ethiopian troops. [249832]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The security situation in south central Somalia remains extremely challenging following the withdrawal of the Ethiopian troops. It is difficult to verify the divergent reports emerging from Mogadishu. However, on 16 January, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) released a press statement saying that, contrary to some press reporting, areas vacated by the Ethiopian troops have now been occupied by Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) forces, who are working together under the Djibouti peace process. Ethiopia's withdrawal presents a security challenge, but it also offers an opportunity for progress towards a Somali-led, long-term political solution to the conflict.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the activities of the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) and *(b)* the prospects that the LRA leader Joseph Kony will rejoin peace talks. [248729]

Gillian Merron: We strongly condemn the indiscriminate attacks by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) on Congolese and South Sudanese civilians which have occurred over the last month. Reports of these attacks vary widely, but the UN have estimated the attacks have resulted in around 500 casualties and 400 abductions.

The Government of Uganda remains committed to the Juba Peace Process. They have publicly stated that the aim of the current military operation against the LRA is to put further pressure on Joseph Kony to sign the Final Peace Agreement, already negotiated and agreed on in Juba, including by the LRA. David Matsanga,

the LRA spokesperson, has called for an immediate ceasefire, to enable the LRA to return to the negotiating table under new conditions.

WALES

Revenue and Customs

Mrs. Betty Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 260W, on Revenue and Customs: Wales, what arrangements other business units relocating from Bangor have in place to ensure continuation of the provision across north Wales of the Welsh language service. [246788]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provides a comprehensive Welsh language service across all business areas in line with the Welsh Language Act 1993. The majority of HMRC's Welsh language services are provided from its offices in Porthmadog and Cardiff. These offices continue to be able to recruit Welsh speaking staff. They are being retained and the services they provide to Welsh speaking customers who telephone, visit or write, will be unaffected by the regional review decisions for Wales.

Those business units currently located in Bangor which offer services to external customers (principally Debt Management and Banking, Local Compliance and Benefits and Credits Delivery) are committed to the continued provision of a Welsh language service in accordance with HMRC's Welsh Language Scheme. Details of the scheme are published on the HMRC internet site at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cymraeg/welsh-language-scheme-english.pdf

As my hon. Friend confirmed in her earlier answer of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 263W, face to face inquiry services in Bangor will continue to be provided for Welsh language speakers either from the same building or from another building nearby.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime Prevention

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the performance of the Lock Out Crime Scheme against its objectives. [248427]

Paul Goggins: Over a three year period, the lock out crime scheme has contributed to a 24.5 per cent. reduction in domestic burglary against a target of 2.1 per cent. and has improved security in approximately 17,000 homes across Northern Ireland against a target of 7,000 to 10,000 homes.

Feedback from the beneficiaries of the scheme has indicated that a majority enjoy an increased level of personal security as a direct result of this initiative.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department's central media and communication unit spent on public surveys in each of the last three years. [248027]

Paul Goggins: The total expenditure by the Northern Ireland Office's central media and communication unit on public surveys in each of the last three years is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*NIO Total expenditure on public surveys (£)*
2006-07	21,385
2007-08	65,565
2008-09 (to date as at January 2009)	21,385

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Finance

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the effect on the Northern Ireland policing budget if devolution of policing and justice takes place during the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. [248929]

Paul Goggins: The total allocation for PSNI is in excess of £1.1 billion for each of the three years of the comprehensive spending review (CSR). In providing for the CSR settlement, the Government took account of expectations in relation to the devolution of policing and justice.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what level of resource expenditure on the part of the Police Service of Northern Ireland he estimates there will be in the current three year comprehensive spending period. [249015]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland was allocated the following resource budget in the current three year comprehensive spending period:

	Police Service of Northern Ireland (£ million)
2008-09	1,199
2009-10	1,184
2010-11	1,159

Prisons: Cannabis

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to ensure the amount of cannabis used in Northern Ireland's prisons is reduced. [248115]

Paul Goggins: On 21 July 2008 I published a comprehensive report on measures to tackle the flow of drugs into prison establishments.

Since then, significant steps have been taken to ensure that the volume of drugs including cannabis entering prisons is reduced. These include:

Stringent new measures to manage inmates' personal cash accounts including restrictions on the passing of money into or out of the prison;

Further training and deployment of specialist search staff, including use of specialist staff at visits entrances;

Specialist training for new support grade staff;

Enhanced observation of prisoners visits;

Improved sharing of intelligence and closer co-operation with PSNI in identifying potential traffickers;

Improved arrangements for the arrest and prosecution of individuals suspected or identified smuggling drugs into prisons.

Re-offenders

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on re-offenders, what the release dates are for the 13 people still in custody. [250494]

Paul Goggins: Only three of the persons referred to in the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, currently have release dates—April 2009, February 2012 and May 2012 respectively.

If the hon. Gentleman would like further information he may care to write to me.

Young Offenders: Convictions

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many juveniles were convicted of a criminal offence in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by category of offence. [250535]

Paul Goggins: The following table gives the number of juveniles (aged 10 to 17 years) convicted of an offence broken down by offence classification.

Data are for the calendar year 2006 (the latest year available) and are collated on the principal offence rule; so only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of juveniles (aged 10 to 17 years) convicted by offence classification 2006

Offence classification	*Number*
Violence against the person	152
Sexual offences	8
Burglary	81
Robbery	11
Theft	202
Fraud and forgery	7
Criminal damage	240
Offences against the state	40
Drug offences	42
Other offences	2
Total indictable offences	785
Summary offences	258
Motoring offences	230
Total offences	1,273

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Electric Cables

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps are taken to test and improve the fire resistance to EU standards of electrical cable that is *(a)* manufactured in the UK, *(b)* imported from another EU member state and *(c)* imported from outside the EU (i) at point of import or manufacture and (ii) at other times before installation of the cable; [247114]

(2) what steps are being taken to ensure that fire-resistant electric cable imported for use by the UK construction industry meets EU standards. [247118]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Fire resistance for electric cables is covered by European standards developed under the Construction Products Directive (89/106/EEC). The 1991 UK Construction Products Regulations (SI 1620) implement this directive in the UK, and require that all products used in construction works must satisfy essential requirements (including safety in fire) for their use, where that use is regulated. In turn, the England and Wales Building Regulations (regulation 7) require that products must be fit for purpose in use. The guidance to this functional requirement states that testing and certification to a harmonised EU standard is one way of demonstrating compliance. In addition, the guidance to part B of the Building Regulations (Fire Safety) states that cables showing the appropriate classification against harmonised EU standard (BS EN 50200:2006) can be deemed compliant with the relevant requirements of part B. Scotland and Northern Ireland have similar provisions. These conditions apply equally to products manufactured in the UK or imported from either the EU or elsewhere. These requirements govern the fire resistance of cables in use: there is no mandatory requirement for testing or certification at point of manufacture or marketing.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: International Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made to date towards meeting the G8 Gleneagles pledge to *(a)* increase official development assistance (ODA) by $50 billion, *(b)* increase ODA to Africa by $25 billion and *(c)* cancel 100 per cent. of heavily indebted poor countries' debt by 2010; what steps are being taken to ensure that the G8 meets these targets by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [248507]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: According to the latest available data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), ODA from DAC members increased from $79 billion in 2004 to $104 billion in 2007, and ODA to Africa has increased from $30 billion in 2004 to $39 billion in 2007.

The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative agreed at Gleneagles in 2005 has delivered an additional $42 billion of debt cancellation to 23 countries including 19 in Africa. Non-DAC donors are also contributing to meeting the targets. The ODA increases by the G8 and other donors towards the 2005 targets are monitored by the DAC, the European Commission and by civil society, and are discussed in intergovernmental bodies including the United Nations, the G8, the European Council, and DAC High Level meetings. The UK Government is continuing to work with others to ensure effective delivery of the commitments made in 2005.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's agreed contribution was towards the G8 Gleneagles pledge to *(a)* increase official development assistance (ODA) by $50 billion and *(b)* increase ODA to Africa by $25 billion by 2010 (i) as a percentage of each total and (ii) in monetary terms expressed in (A) US dollars and (B) pounds; and if he will make a statement. [248508]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: At Gleneagles, the UK announced a timetable to provide 0.7 per cent. of gross national income (GNI) as official development assistance (ODA) by 2013. The European Union agreed to provide 0.56 per cent. of its GNI as ODA in 2010, with at least half of the increase allocated to sub-Saharan Africa. On the basis of these commitments, and those of other donors, the OECD estimated that total annual ODA would increase by around $50 billion between 2004 and 2010, and annual ODA to Africa would increase by $25 billion.

In the comprehensive spending review settlement announced in October 2007, the Government announced that DFID would spend £7.9 billion in 2010-11, and projected that total UK ODA would reach £9.1 billion (0.56 per cent. of projected GNI), compared to ODA of £4.3 billion in 2004. This projected increase of £4.8 billion is equivalent to US$7.3 billion at today's exchange rates, about 15 per cent of the $50 billion increase expected to result from the Gleneagles commitments. The Government has not announced a projection of total UK ODA to Africa, but has announced that DFID will increase its total multilateral and bilateral aid to Africa from £1.3 billion in 2004 to more than £3 billion in 2010—equivalent to $2.6 billion at today's exchange rates, and over 10 per cent. of the $25 billion increase for Africa announced at Gleneagles commitments.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to development projects in Bangladesh in each of the last five years. [248934]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on DFID's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available from in the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk.

Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

DFID expenditure in Bangladesh, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total DFID bilateral programme	55,383	127,904	123,368	109,313	129,392
DFID imputed multilateral shares	26,967	19,951	37,860	42,029	—

Note:
Imputed multilateral figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Burundi: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to build capacity in Burundi, with particular reference to assistance to the parliamentary authorities in that country. [248613]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) is working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and development partners in Burundi to help build state capacity in the health, education and justice sectors. For example, within the education programme which will provide £6 million over three years, we are strengthening the ministry's capacity for policy making and management of the education system. Technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance and our health and education sector programmes all include components to strengthen the government's public financial management and procurement capacity.

With regard to parliamentary strengthening, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes is planning to visit Burundi in February 2009 to provide support to a cross-party group of MPs through an FCO-sponsored workshop, which will also strengthen ties between our two parliaments. DFID is complementing capacity-building support to the Burundian parliament, provided by other donors, through our £6 million over six years Joint Governance Programme with the Swedish International Development Agency. This aims to reinforce other institutions important for transparency and accountability—the media, civil society, oversight institutions—by building their capacity to scrutinise government action. This should help create a more conducive environment for parliament to play its role.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246667]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Travel by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code" respectively.

The information requested could not be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise

improving departmental buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on departmental decoration. [248057]

Mr. Michael Foster: The total amounts spent on maintaining the Department for International Development's (DFID) two UK headquarters in the last five years are as set out in the following table.

These sums include all costs associated with planned preventative maintenance, and items such as spare parts, health and safety equipment, subcontracted maintenance contracts and costs associated with the internal reorganisation of the buildings.

	Total (£)
2004-05	992,252
2005-06	1,031,561
2006-07	1,013,528
2007-08	920,701
2008-09	994,774

In addition to the above, we spent £4,980,789 in 2004-05 and £1,285,379 in 2005-06 on a major refurbishment project of our East Kilbride headquarters, which included major construction and refitting costs.

There are currently no specific plans for further redecoration other than general maintenance.

Departmental Catering

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks suppliers have been used by his Department in each of the last three years; and how much his Department paid to each such supplier in each of those years. [248382]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID operates a staff restaurant in each of its two UK offices. In the three last three financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 these were operated under contract by Yes Dining Ltd. until December 2008 when the contracts were re-tendered and awarded to Charlton House Catering Services Ltd.

The amount paid in each year was as follows:

	£
2005-06	384,403
2006-07	376,487
2007-08	350,300

These amounts include the subsidy paid for the operation of the restaurants, including staff and other running costs, and costs of refreshments at official meetings and events. It is not possible to separately identify costs of food and drinks, or of the individual suppliers used by the catering contractors.

Departmental Official Cars

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hybrid vehicles his Department *(a)* owns and *(b)* owned in 2007-08. [246869]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development owns no hybrid vehicles.

Developing Countries: Foreign Investment

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the global economic situation on the level of foreign direct investment from the United Kingdom to developing countries in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [248781]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The main source for data on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows is the annual World Investment Report (WIR) published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/wir2008_en.pdf

WIR 2008 predicted that the global financial crisis would result in FDI flows for the whole of 2008 falling 10 per cent. from the 2007 level, although the report also suggests that FDI flows to developing countries are less likely to be affected.

According to the Office of National Statistics FDI surveys, UK companies have invested £96 million in Africa and £7.3 billion in Asia in 2007.

DFID maintains a substantial investment climate reform programme to help improve the environment for both foreign and domestic investment flows. This includes a three-year £17 million commitment to the Investment Climate Facility for Africa.

Development Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effects of global economic conditions on the level of remittances from the United Kingdom to developing countries in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [248780]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W.

Recently the World Bank, in the publication 'Outlook for Remittance Flows 2008-2010' estimated UK remittances outflows at $5 billion for 2007. World Bank analysis of 'EU-15', that includes the UK, states that

"outward remittances from the EU-15 countries are expected to decline by nearly eight per cent. in 2009, primarily due to a strengthening of the US dollar".

The World Bank's central estimate is that remittance flows to developing countries will fall by 0.9 per cent. this year. However, this could go down further as the impact of the financial crisis deepens, with a worst case scenario according to the Bank of a fall of six per cent.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information he has on the impact of the Israeli military attack on the Palestinian territories in Gaza in December 2008 on British-supported aid projects in Gaza; what the cost of damage to such projects is; and what representations he has made to the Israeli government on the matter. [248614]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent to my statement of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 20WS.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has given to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund to support the role of the Quartet Middle East Envoy since June 2007; what such funding is planned for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [248782]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development provided £400,000 to the UN Development Programme Trust Fund to support the office of the Quartet Representative in Jerusalem. We will continue to keep funding requirements for the post under review and will consider support, as necessary.

Mozambique: Police

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has made representations to the government of Mozambique in support of police reform in that country; and if he will make a statement. [249005]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government are concerned about human rights violations and lack of police accountability of the kind described in the Amnesty International report on Mozambique—'Licence to Kill'. In July 2008 the Secretary of State wrote to the government of Mozambique, highlighting some of the key measures required in order to make demonstrable progress in tackling corruption—including in the policing and justice sectors—and to strengthen the legislative framework to eliminate any idea of impunity under the law in Mozambique. The British high commissioner has also raised the issue of police accountability and reform with relevant Ministries on a number of occasions in 2008.

In the process of drawing up its Country Assistance Plan in 2007, the Department for International Development (DFID) decided not to enter the justice sector in Mozambique as a number of major donors—including the World Bank, UNDP, the European Commission, USAID, the Netherlands and Denmark—were already actively engaged. However, well established donor co-ordination mechanisms in Mozambique allow for regular technical dialogue between donors and with government, throughout the year, on the justice and other sectors. UK concerns about policing issues are also specifically raised with the Mozambique government through the EU and high commission.

Overseas Aid

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department plans to take to improve the UK's position in the Centre for Global Development's Commitment to Development Index. [245267]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2006 White Paper "Making Governance Work for the Poor" set out the Government's commitment to promoting coherent support for development across a wide range of international policies. One of DFID's Departmental Strategic Objectives for the three year period 2008-11 is to:

"develop a global partnership for development (beyond aid)".

Progress in this area is reviewed annually in DFID's Annual Report which is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the humanitarian situation in the Vanni area of Sri Lanka following *(a)* the government of Sri Lanka's order to UN agencies and humanitarian non-governmental organisations to withdraw their staff and operations from the region on 5 September 2008 and *(b)* the flooding from Cyclone Nisha in November 2008. [246290]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) latest field assessment visit in September reinforced our considerable concern about the 230,000 or more displaced people and vulnerable residents in the Vanni and the lack of humanitarian assistance. Without regular direct access the detail of conditions in the Vanni is difficult to monitor. However, we remain in close contact with humanitarian agencies and plan another humanitarian mission in mid-February.

We have continually pressed for all parties to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and for humanitarian convoys to be allowed to deliver assistance more predictably. A full UN-led needs assessment is essential, especially after Cyclone Nisha.

DFID has allocated £2.5 million to the UN, the International Red Cross and the International Organisation for Migration to help support the immediate needs of displaced and vulnerable residents in the Vanni and elsewhere in Sri Lanka. The problem, however, will not be resolved by funding alone and we are resolute in pressing for better humanitarian access and safe humanitarian space. I and other Ministers have pressed the Sri Lankan Government to allow this.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allotment allocations are vacant, in each constituency. [250378]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have centrally held figures for the number of allotment vacancies. Local authorities are responsible for keeping figures on vacancies and we do not require them to provide central Government with these figures. The number of vacancies changes regularly in line with local demand.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sets of criteria local authorities use to determine allotment allocations. [250379]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under section 23 of the 1908 Allotment Act, when selecting tenants for allotments, local authorities are obliged to select only people resident within their area. There is no universal classification used by local authorities to allocate allotments. Most local authorities will allocate allotment plots according to the date of first application. Preference may be given by some local authorities to persons having special needs, such as old age pensioners, disabled persons or unemployed persons, but that is the decision of the local authority.

Council Tax: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many summonses to court for council tax arrears were issued in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years; [248831]

(2) how many bailiff visits there were for the collection of council tax arrears in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years; [248832]

(3) how many householders have been declared bankrupt because of council tax arrears in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last five years. [250738]

John Healey: The administration of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities. The information requested is not collected or held by Communities and Local Government. Data on council tax enforcement is published by CIPFA.

Empty Property

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty habitable houses in *(a)* northern England, *(b)* the Midlands and *(c)* the South East and South West; and how many such houses are (i) publicly owned, (ii) privately owned and (iii) owned by housing associations. [249881]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the total number of empty habitable dwellings and the number of privately owned empty habitable dwellings is not held centrally; however, an estimate of the number of empty habitable dwellings owned by local authorities and registered social landlords is held and these figures are shown in the following table:

Region	*Estimates of local authority habitable vacant dwellings (as at 1 April 2007)*	*Estimates of Registered Social Landlord habitable vacant dwellings (as at 31 March 2007)*
North	7,800	5,150
North East	1,910	780
North West	2,870	2,770
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,020	1,590
Midlands	3,810	2,010
East Midlands	1,950	560
West Midlands	1,860	1,450
South East	1,430	1,310
South West	960	740

Source:
Regulatory and Statistical Return submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency by Registered Social Landlords, Business Planning Statistical Appendix and Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix submitted to Communities and local government by local authorities

Housing: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase *(a)* the availability of and *(b)* access to affordable housing in rural areas. [248183]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency has been set a national target to provide 10,300 affordable homes in smaller rural communities from 2008-09 to 2010-11 for both social rent and low cost home ownership. Grant will be allocated to those schemes which meet the needs of local people, the regional strategy and demonstrate strong value for money from the £8 billion National Affordable Housing Programme. The target itself is a significant increase in comparison with previous delivery and represents a significant challenge, by its focus on completions not allocations. However, given current market conditions, it is too early to predict outputs with certainty over the period to 2010-11.

In addition, provisions in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 will enable all providers of shared ownership houses to restrict the equity share which shared owners may acquire in order to retain the benefit of the shared ownership homes for future purchasers in areas, such as small rural settlements, where replacement would be difficult.

The Government are also committed to helping the development of a viable, well managed and financially robust Community Land Trust sector. Community Land Trusts have the potential to get the weight of the community behind the development of affordable housing and bring forward land for development, particularly in rural areas. We recently published a consultation on the development of a viable Community Land Trust sector and we have received 63 responses from a wide range of stakeholders which we are currently analysing. We will publish the results in the near future.

Access to social rented housing is determined by the allocations legislation. This is designed to ensure the widest possible access whilst ensuring that priority goes to those people who are in the greatest housing need.

Access to low cost home ownership schemes funded through the Affordable Housing Programme is open to first time buyers with an annual household income of £60,000 or less who are unable to buy a home in the market.

The Prime Minister commissioned a report from the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) who has been looking at how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver affordable housing in rural communities. His report, published in July 2008; provides a comprehensive review of the issues that our rural communities face, including access to

affordable housing, and provides a number of practical recommendations. We are looking at the report in detail and will publish a full response shortly.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Recruitment

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information the recruitment consultants for the post of Chairman of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) provided to candidates for the post on the conditions governing early termination of the employment contract, including compensation payable, in the event of abolition of the IPC. [248459]

John Healey: The information pack provided to all candidates draws attention to the Government's intention to conduct a review of the Commission two years after it first becomes operational but does not set out the conditions that would govern any early termination of the employment contract or any compensation payable. These will be set out in the contract of employment in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 (Schedule 1 paragraph 5). The terms will be agreed with the successful candidate before appointment.

Local Government: Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities in England on the payments of invoices within 10 days; what assessment her Department has made of the extent to which local authorities are meeting this target; and what steps her Department has taken to facilitate local authorities in England paying suppliers within 10 days of receipt of invoice. [250210]

John Healey: In the pre-Budget report, in order to help businesses manage their cash flow, the Government announced that they would aim to pay their suppliers as soon as possible and within 10 days. This commitment has been adopted by a number of local authorities.

Local Government: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Boundary Committee for England to report to her on options for the local government structure of Suffolk. [249817]

John Healey: The Boundary Committee has been requested to provide advice to the Secretary of State no later than 13 February 2009 on proposals for unitary local government in Suffolk.

Locla Government Finance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the local government finance settlement for the London borough of Bexley in 2009-10. [248492]

John Healey: One representation was received from the London borough of Bexley during the consultation period on the local government finance settlement for 2009-10 which ended on 7 January 2009. Issues raised in the representation included the level of the floor and efficiency savings.

Views were also received from the Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) after the consultation period ended.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Minister for Housing will reply to the letters of 5 November 2008 and 5 December 2008 from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean, reference FD1764, on rent increases for tenants of housing association properties. [250408]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have replied to the letters from the hon. Member.

Non-domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses have been granted small business rate relief in each year since its introduction in April 2005, broken down by local authority area; what the value was of such relief in each authority area in each year; and if she will make a statement. [247898]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing (a) the number of businesses that were in receipt of small business rate relief in each local authority in England as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available and (b) the total relief granted in each local authority in England in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Planning Permission: Inland Waterways

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidance exists on residential mooring; and if she will make a statement. [250094]

Mr. Iain Wright: No national planning guidance has been published on the provision of residential moorings. That is not to say, however, that development plans should not address the issue of residential moorings where local planning authorities feel it is appropriate to do so.

Social Rented Housing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to buy stocks of land for social housing in the current economic situation. [248127]

Mr. Iain Wright: We recognise the difficulties the housing market as a whole is currently experiencing and that is why we are committed to taking action. In May, July, September and at pre-Budget report last year we announced measures to tackle the downturn in the

housing market. We are responding to the short-term market conditions by introducing measures to provide extra help for first time buyers, homeowners facing difficulties, and keeping housing supply, especially social housing supply, as high as possible. We are bringing forward from 2010-11 £550 million to provide around 7,500 social rented homes 18 months earlier than they would otherwise have been delivered.

The new Homes and Communities Agency, which was established on 1 December 2008, is the Government's key delivery partner in relation to housing and regeneration. It has the ability to acquire land in support of its statutory objects and some of that land will be used for affordable housing. In addition, the HCA is responsible for the management of the programme for the delivery of more and better homes on surplus public sector land, with a target of 200,000 homes by 2016, of which the aspiration is that up to 50 per cent. of homes delivered will be affordable homes. In the current market, we are, however, keeping all options under constant review and the HCA is actively engaged in discussions with the industry.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 619W, on council housing: construction, which local authorities have made *(a)* bids and *(b)* successful bids for social housing grants to the Homes and Communities Agency. [249746]

Mr. Iain Wright: The first bids from local authorities for social housing grant from the Homes and Communities Agency will be submitted after we make the necessary changes to the revenue and capital rules described in the previous answer. We issued a consultation on these changes on 21 January. However, seven arm's length management organisations and other local authority wholly-owned special purpose vehicles have bid for grant, of which six have been successful and the other is awaiting assessment. Social homes owned by local authority vehicles of this nature are not subject to the revenue and capital rules which currently apply to council houses owned by the local authority itself.

Unitary Councils

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the reasons were for her decision to issue additional guidance to the Boundary Committee on 8 December 2008 to the effect that they should assess the affordability of and support for new unitary local authorities in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Suffolk in aggregate rather than by individual proposed authority. [248661]

John Healey: We decided it would be helpful to the Boundary Committee to provide the additional guidance on the approach we are seeking for assessing unitary proposals involving two or more unitary councils, as from the financial information published by the Committee on 21 November, it was not clear that such assessments would be on the basis set out in the original request to the Committee of considering such a proposal in aggregate across all the unitary councils involved.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to support the creation of new unitary local authorities in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Suffolk. [248662]

John Healey: My right hon. Friend will take her decisions under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 on whether or not to implement any unitary proposals she has received from the councils or the Boundary Committee after the end of a period of six weeks, as required by that Act, following the date on which the Boundary Committee has been requested to provide advice to the Secretary of State.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the *(a)* affordability and *(b)* level of support for new unitary local authorities in (i) Devon, (ii) Norfolk and (iii) Suffolk. [248663]

John Healey: Such an assessment was made of those proposals for new unitary authorities submitted by Exeter city council, Ipswich borough council and Norwich city council which we made against the five criteria, including affordability and a broad cross section of support, set out in the October 2006 'Invitation to councils in England to make proposals for future unitary structures', and which we made prior to asking the Boundary Committee for advice on proposals for unitary local government in the three county areas of Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is her Department's objective in creating new unitary local authorities that all authorities so created are financially viable. [248664]

John Healey: Our "Invitation to councils in England to make proposals for future unitary structures", published in October 2006, set out five criteria, including criteria on affordability and value for money local services, against which proposals for unitary local government would be assessed.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regiments are based in Afghanistan; and where they are situated. [248158]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement given by my predecessor on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 71WS.

With regard to the location of troops, I have nothing to add to the answer I gave on 18 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W, to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram).

Antarctic: Navy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Royal Navy currently stations any vessels in the British Antarctic Territory. [248003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy does not station any vessels in the British Antarctic Territory. Construction of the necessary infrastructure required to support a permanent naval presence would not be permitted under the Antarctic Treaty.

However, the British Antarctic Survey provides a permanent scientific presence in the British Antarctic Territory and Her Majesty's Government are aware of the strategic importance of also maintaining a sovereign presence in Antarctica through Royal Navy patrols of the waters of the Territory in the austral summer.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the level of uptake was for each scheme to encourage home ownership among service personnel and veterans in each of the last three years. [249695]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 674-75W, to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison).

The figures for financial year 2008-09 will be available in May 2009.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of armed forces personnel were fit for task in each year since 2001. [249718]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD collates, on a quarterly basis, management information on the number of Service personnel 'fit for task', which provides a measure of the medical fitness of all trained armed forces personnel. These figures are broken down into three categories: Medically Fully Fit, Medically Not Fully Fit and Medically Unfit. It should be noted that the majority of those personnel who fall under the category of Medically Not Fully Fit remain fit enough to work in some capacity and therefore continue to make a contribution to operational effectiveness, often within theatres of operation.

Prior to 1 April 2006 information was collected by the single services for internal management purposes, but was not required to be reported centrally in a standardised format. It would therefore incur disproportionate cost to retrieve this information and collate it into comparable figures.

Medically fit for task figures from the first quarter of 2006-07 through to the second quarter of 2007-08 can be found in the following table. Personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages rounded to one decimal point. For information on the period covering the third quarter of 2007-08 through to the second quarter of 2008-09 I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1262-64W.

		Naval Service		*Army*		*RAF*	
		Numbers	*Percentage of Trained Strength*	*Numbers*	*Percentage of Trained Strength*	*Numbers*	*Percentage of Trained Strength*
2006-07							
Quarter 1	Fully Fit for Task	33,450	94.5	80,920	83.7	42,440	90.2
	Not Fully Fit for Task	1,790	5.1	15,250	15.8	4,390	9.3
	Unfit for Task	160	0.5	480		220	0.5
Quarter 2	Fully Fit for Task	33,540	94.8	80,190	83.4	42,440	90.2
	Not Fully Fit for Task	1,720	4.9	15,470	16.1	4,390	9.3
	Unfit for Task	130	0.4	540	0.6	220	0.5
Quarter 3[1]	Fully Fit for Task	—	—	79,810	83.2	39,230	99.4
	Not Fully Fit for Task	—	—	15,530	16.1	4,460	10.2
	Unfit for Task	—	—	560	0.6	200	0.5
Quarter 4	Fully Fit for Task	31,330	90.4	79,040	82.7	38,730	89.7
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,170	9.2	16,080	16.8	4,450	10.3
	Unfit for Task	120	0.4	480	0.5	190	0.4
2007-08							
Quarter 1[2]	Fully Fit for Task	31,330	90.5	—	—	38,730	89.3
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,170	9.2	—	—	4,450	10.3
	Unfit for Task	120	0.4	—	—	190	0.4
Quarter 2[2]	Fully Fit for Task	31,279	90.1	—	—	37,250	89.1

		Naval Service		Army		RAF	
		Numbers	Percentage of Trained Strength	Numbers	Percentage of Trained Strength [2]	Numbers	Percentage of Trained Strength
	Not Fully Fit for Task	3,315	9.6	—	—	4,360	10.4
	Unfit for Task	120	0.4	—	—	190	0.5

[1] Figures for the Naval Service not available due to change over from legacy systems to the Joint Personnel Administration system.
[2] Since 2007 the Army have collated figures for their deployable elements only not their total trained strength.

Since 1 April 2007 the Army has collated quarterly figures for its deployable elements only, rather than for its total trained strength. For this reason the figures are not comparable to those provided by the Navy and RAF in the same period. The Army's deployability returns provide a snapshot, on a specific day, of the deployability of Army personnel broken down into the following categories: fully deployable; limited deployability (LD); personnel unable to deploy (PUD). Many of those personnel classed as LD can and will deploy to operational theatres, likewise PUDs will be able to undertake non-deployed duties.

The following table provides the figures for calendar years 2007-08, personnel numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and percentages rounded to one decimal point. It should be noted that since September 2008 the deployability return has extended the categories it collects against with the intention of providing greater granularity to limited deployability and PUD data. As result the September and December returns report against different metrics which may account for the increase in numbers.

		Fully Deployable	LD for Medical Reason	PUD for Medical Reasons
2007				
1 March	Numbers	54,960	7,390	3,630
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	78.4	10.5	5.2
1 June	Numbers	55,030	7,340	3,700
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	78.5	10.5	5.3
1 September	Numbers	53,860	6,980	3,640
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	78.7	10.2	5.4
1 December	Numbers	53,390	6,550	3,650
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	79.2	9.7	5.4
2008				
1 March	Numbers	56,050	7,020	3,810
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	79.8	10.0	5.4
1 June	Numbers	55,980	6,910	3,610
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	80.3	9.9	5.2
1 September	Numbers	56,570	8,690	3,790
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	77.7	11.9	5.2
1 December	Numbers	57,700	7,910	3,910
	Percentage of Deployable Strength	78.8	10.8	5.3

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Repairs and Maintenance

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on armoured vehicle maintenance in each year since 2001. [249705]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of each Army corps did not meet *(a)* harmony guidelines for tour intervals and *(b)* separated service guidelines in each year since 2001. [249701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical data to support the percentage calculation of breaches in harmony guidelines

for tour intervals and separated service guidelines for each Army corps in each year since 2001 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The percentage of each Army corps (for which we record tour interval information), failing to meet harmony guidelines for tour intervals, as at December 2008, is:

Corps	*Percentage breaching harmony guidelines*
Royal Artillery	55
Royal Armoured Corps	[1]33
Infantry	[2]53

[1]Excludes 2 Royal Tank Regiment as it has not deployed as a formed unit since 2003.
[2]Excludes 1 and 2 Lancs due to their amalgamation (1 Korbr, 1 Kings and QLR) in 2006.

The unit tour interval is a less relevant measure when applied to other corps (such as Royal Engineers and the Royal Corps of Signals). This is due to the frequency with which personnel move between formed units within these corps (the personnel deployed with a unit will be substantially different from the personnel deployed with the same unit on a previous occasion). Unit tour interval data for these Corps are not, therefore, routinely collated.

The latest available data (as at December 2006) recorded separated service guideline breaches at an average of 10.3 per cent. across the Army. It is hoped that separated service data will, in future, be provided by the Joint Personnel Administration System.

Astute Class Submarines: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the orders for boats five, six and seven of the Astute class are expected to be placed. [248533]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Three Astute class submarines are on order with BAES (Submarine Solutions), and a further order was placed on 21 May 2007 to commence the build of the fourth boat. Long lead orders have been placed for items in respect of boats five and six. The intent is to place the first long lead order for boat seven before 2010.

As the hon. Member may be aware from the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 71W, to the hon. Member for Bromsgrove (Miss Kirkbride), there has been some delay to the Astute programme. We are re-baselining the programme and I will make an announcement in due course.

Astute-Class Submarines

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable has been set for the completion of the construction programme for Astute-class submarines and the commencement of the programme to construct Trident II submarines in the same facility. [249003]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There has been a delay to the Astute programme. It is currently being re-baselined and an announcement will be made in due course. Lessons learnt from the programme are, however, being applied to the design and build phase of the Future Submarine programme as part of normal business between closely related programmes.

The Future Submarine programme to procure a new class of submarine to replace the Vanguard-class is at an early stage and no decisions have yet been taken on where the submarines will be built.

AWE Burghfield: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the resilience to nuclear accidents of the proposed main process facility for assembling and dis-assembling nuclear warheads at AWE Burghfield. [248173]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The proposed main process facility for the assembly and disassembly of nuclear warheads at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Burghfield is designed in accordance with internationally recognised standards and codes of practice that are applicable to any facility containing explosives and nuclear hazards. These standards have been developed and refined from experience across the nuclear field following research conducted into a number of accident scenarios, to ensure a demonstrably acceptable risk to the public, the work force and the environment.

Given the existence of robust recognised standards, further research is not currently required. Extensive analysis has, however, been conducted by experts at AWE to substantiate the building design and to meet the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive's nuclear installations inspectorate and hazardous installations directorate.

Chad: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department's financial contribution will be in support of the EU military mission to Chad and Central African Republic under the 2004 Athena mechanism. [249715]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the Athena mechanism, the UK's share of the approved budget for the EU military operation in Chad and Central African Republic is expected to be £14.7 million on the planned conclusion of the mission in March. This funding comes from the UK Government Peacekeeping Budget which is jointly managed by MOD, DFID and FCO and funded directly from the Treasury reserve.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British armed forces personnel have served as part of EUFOR TChad/CAR in each of the last 12 months. [249717]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over each of the last 12 months, the UK has maintained a contribution of four military officers as part of EUFOR TChad/Central African Republic (CAR): two officers in the operational HQ at Mont Valerien in Paris and two officers in the force HQ in Chad. These staff officers are being provided under standing EU headquarters augmentation procedures.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Russian *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian contracted helicopters are currently used by EUFOR Tchad/CAR; and on how many occasions British personnel have flown in each. [249741]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Russian contingent provides four military and no civilian contracted helicopters for current use by EUFOR Tchad/Central African Republic (CAR). No British personnel have flown in these helicopters.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF *(a)* C-17 Globemaster, *(b)* C-130K Hercules, *(c)* C-130J Hercules, *(d)* Tristar, *(e)* VC-10 and *(f)* other aircraft of each type have flown to the (i) Democratic Republic of Congo, (ii) Rwanda and (ii) Burundi since 21 November 2008. [249716]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No RAF C-17 Globemaster, C-130K and C130-J Hercules, Tristar, VC-10 or other RAF aircraft have flown to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda or Burundi since 21 November 2008.

Departmental Consultants

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of each management consultancy study commissioned by his Department from *(a)* McKinsey and Co, *(b)* PA Consulting, *(c)* KPMG and *(d)* PricewaterhouseCoopers since 2005. [249721]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 94-6W, on departmental data protection, how many *(a)* desktop computers, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* hard drives and *(d)* memory sticks have gone missing from (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies in each year since 2003. [249148]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following tables show the number of officially issued assets centrally reported as missing (lost and stolen) from the MOD and its agencies since 2003. The figures in the following tables reflect the latest data held centrally as at 20 January 2009.

Figures for missing desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD from 2003-08

	MOD organisations	Laptop	Desktop	HDD	USB
2003	Air Command	6	—	2	—
	MOD Centre	12	5	—	—
	Defence Estates	—	4	—	—
	Defence Equipment and Support	9	5	—	—
	Defence Support Groups	1	—	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3	—	—	—
	Navy Command	27	10	4	—
	Land Command	78	11	3	—
	MET Office	—	7	—	—
	PJHQ	14	—	—	—
	UK Hydrographic Office	1	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
	Total	151	42	9	0
2004	Air Command	14	1	2	—
	MOD Centre	7	16	11	3
	Defence Estates	50	1	—	—
	Defence Equipment and Support	14	1	2	—
	Defence Support Group	—	—	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	1	—	—	—
	Navy Command	28	1	9	—
	Land Command	160	11	1	24
	MET Office	—	—	—	—
	PJHQ	17	1	—	—
	UK Hydrographic Office	—	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
	Total	291	32	25	27
2005	Air Command	14	3	5	—
	MOD Centre	3	—	—	—
	Defence Estates	1	—	—	—
	Defence Equipment and Support	12	—	—	—
	Defence Support Group	—	—	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	5	—	—	—
	Navy Command	18	5	2	
	Land	73	15	6	1
	Met Office	2	—	—	—
	PJHQ	—	—	1	1
	UK Hydrographic Office	—	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
	Total	128	23	14	2
2006	Air Command	11	2	1	3

Figures for missing desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD from 2003-08

	MOD organisations	Laptop	Desktop	HDD	USB
	MOD Centre	14	—	—	1
	Defence Estates	2	—	—	—
	Defence Equipment and Support	14	—	32	—
	Defence Support Group	—	1	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	—	—	—	—
	Navy Command	21	3	3	—
	Land Command	116	19	8	51
	MET Office	3	—	—	1
	PJHQ	—	—	3	—
	UK Hydrographic Office	—	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—
	Total	181	25	47	56

Figures for missing desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD from 2003-08

	MOD organisations	Laptop	Desktop	HDD	USB
2007	Air Command	8	—	—	1
	MOD Centre	9	—	—	4
	Defence Estates	5	1	—	1
	Defence Equipment and Support	10	—	—	—
	Defence Support Group	1	—	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	1	—	—	—
	Navy Command	7	4	2	—
	Land Command	77	9	6	2
	MET Office	1	—	—	—
	PJHQ	4	1	1	1
	UK Hydrographic Office	—	—	—	—
	Other				
	Total	123	15	9	9
2008	Air Command	104	1	—	15
	MOD Centre	13	—	1	16
	Defence Estates	4	—	—	3
	Defence Equipment and Support	16	—	20	1
	Defence Support Group	1	—	—	—
	Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3	—	—	1
	Navy Command	28	7	6	11
	Land Command	38	37	37	39
	MET Office	2	—	—	—
	PJHQ	5	—	16	10
	UK Hydrographic Office	—	—	—	—

Figures for missing desktop computers, laptop computers, hard drives and USB flash memory devices for the MOD from 2003-08

	MOD organisations	Laptop	Desktop	HDD	USB
	Other	3	2	—	—
	Total	217	47	80	96

Note:
Memory sticks are defined by MOD as USB flash memory devices.
DT—Desktop Computers
LT—Laptop Computers
HD—Hard drives
USB—USB flash memory devices
Other—the MOD agency could not be identified

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's underspend of £1.75 billion in 2007-08 against its budget is to be carried forward to 2008-09; and what the reasons are for this underspend. [249004]

Mr. Hutton: The Department's final audited outturn underspend for 2007-08 comprised principally depreciation charges and movements on provisions, requested in the spring supplementary estimate through request for resources 1 (RfR1—provision of defence capability), that did not materialise. This underspend was in indirect resource which, as non-cash, does not contribute to the Department's spending power. Moreover, it was agreed in comprehensive spending review 2007 that any RfR1 non-cash resource underspend would be set at zero at the start of 2008-09 and could not therefore be subject to end year flexibility (EYF), with any requirement for further non-cash provision to be considered with the Treasury when it arose.

A small proportion of the 2007-08 underspend was attributable to RfR2 (peacekeeping and operations), for which the Department is not entitled to claim EYF.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years. [248713]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Department has spent the following on reward and recognition schemes in the past three years.

£000

Reward scheme	Financial year 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Staff suggestion scheme awards	n/a	41	172
Minor Award Scheme awards	738	219	548
Total	738	260	720

n/a = Not available.

The figures exclude the MOD's trading fund agencies, which are outside the Department's accounting boundary.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 11 November 2008,

Official Report, column 1001W, on departmental public relations, which areas of work or projects the external public relations firm worked on; and for what reasons in-house communications staff were not used for such work. [249021]

Mr. Hutton: Biss Lancaster have been used by the Army's Recruiting Group: to provide strategic advice in the development of its recruitment marketing communications plan to support specific recruitment projects; to generate through the media interest among the recruitment target audience; and to obtain positive coverage of careers in the Army.

In-house communications staff provide essential knowledge of the Army's business. However, the use of Biss Lancaster provides the Army with particular expertise and experience in the specialised recruitment field, offering best value for money to the taxpayer for this type of work.

EC Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on the provisions of the so-called reciprocity clause contained in the recent EU Directive on the coordination of procedures for the award of certain public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts in the fields of defence and security; and if he will make a statement. [249739]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The directive will provide member states with common procurement rules for defence and security which take account of the special features of that market. This will enable them to open up the majority of their defence procurements (apart from certain sensitive contracts) to competition. The aim is a more effective, open and transparent European defence equipment market and the innovation that will bring.

The Recital in question seeks to outline the importance of the creation of a globally competitive European Defence Industrial Base but importantly does not require member states to purchase defence equipment exclusively from within the European Community. We will continue therefore, as now, to look to the global market to meet our capability needs.

HMS Endurance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent assessment is of the extent of damage to HMS Endurance; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of repair; [248805]

(2) what his Department's plans are for the future of HMS Endurance; [248806]

(3) how and when HMS Endurance will be returned to the UK. [248807]

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the extent of the damage to HMS Endurance as a result of the recent flooding incident; what method will be used to return the vessel to the United Kingdom; and whether repair or replacement will be the more economical long-term option. [248532]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Endurance suffered extensive damage to her engine room and some accommodation areas during the flooding incident in December. Subject to further assessments, our intention is that the ship will return to the UK, by heavy lift repair ship or barge, for repair prior to her return to service, at a date to be agreed. I am withholding the projected repair costs as they are commercial-in-confidence.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the operational duties of HMS Endurance will be carried out when she is out of commission. [248808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Her Majesty's Government are aware of the strategic value of sovereign presence in the South Atlantic and Antarctic regions. A number of options are under consideration but it is not yet clear how long the repairs to HMS Endurance will take. HMS Endurance normally undertakes her duties in the austral summer so this year's patrol has, through force of circumstance, been curtailed. Operational deployments are continually weighed against defence responsibilities around the world and therefore it would be inappropriate to provide detail at this point in the planning stage for HMS Endurance's repairs and return to duty.

Investment Approvals Board

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's current Investment Approvals Board forward programme. [249724]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding this information because the forward programme contains commercially sensitive information, and its release would be prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-67WS, on defence equipment, what effect the reduction of the planned production order from 70 airframes to 62 airframes will have on the procurement cost of the Future Lynx programme; and when the decision to reduce the order was taken. [248849]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The reduction of the planned production order will save some costs, however the extent and breakdown of these savings is commercially sensitive and if released could prejudice our commercial interests. The decision was taken as part of the examination of the equipment programme.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Statement of 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 65-67WS, on defence equipment, on what date the decision was taken to reduce the number of airframes to be procured under the Future Lynx programme from 70 to 62. [248907]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 19 January 2009]*: The decision to reduce the number of aircraft was taken as part of our recent examination of the equipment programme.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the letter of 9 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Billericay and others on the subject of nuclear test veterans. [249297]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I expect to reply shortly.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many transport and tanker aircraft were available for deployment by the armed forces in each year since 2001. [249703]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

RAND Corporation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value of contracts given by his Department to the RAND Corporation was in each financial year since 1997-98. [249725]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The value of new contracts awarded by the Ministry of Defence to the RAND Corporation in each of the financial years since 1997-98 is set out in the following table:

Current prices

	Number of new contracts	*Value of new contracts (£)*
1998-99	2	30,000
1999-2000	0	0
2000-01	0	0
2001-02	3	850,000
2002-03	6	950,000
2003-04	3	1,370,000
2004-05	0	0
2005-06	2	60,000
2006-07	2	440,000
2007-08	0	0
Total	18	3,700,000

These figures include contracts awarded directly to the RAND Corporation, RAND Europe and RAND Europe Cambridge Limited. Contract values have been rounded to the nearest £10,000. The figures do not cover contracts which are awarded to suppliers on behalf of other Government Departments; by the MOD's Trading Funds and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary); locally by the Department under low-value procedures; or in relation to those collaborative projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas governments.

Reserve Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel there are in each service of the volunteer reserves; and what the equivalent figures were for 1997. [249696]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the number of personnel in each service of the volunteer reserves as at 1 April 2008 and 1 April 1997 are available in Table 2.17 of UK Defence Statistics 2008 (UKDS), which can be found at:

http://ww.dasa.mod.uk/UKDS2008/c2/table217.html

Copies of UKDS are also available in the Library of the House.

In addition, DASA produces an Army Personnel Statistics Report on a monthly basis, which includes the Territorial Army. The total number of personnel in the Territorial Army (TA) as at 1 November 2008 was 35,920[1, 2]. There are no equivalent publications for the Naval Service or Royal Air Force, therefore the latest available data for these services are those published in UKDS.

[1] Due to ongoing data validation issues within the Joint Personnel Administration system, TA figures are provisional and subject to review.

[2] Denotes provisional.

USA: Foreign Relations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to meet his US counterpart in Washington DC. [249205]

Mr. Hutton: I have regular meetings with Secretary Gates. I expect to see him at the NATO Ministerial meeting at the end of February and I also intend to visit Washington DC in the near future.

Warships: Procurement

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vessels are currently on order for *(a)* the Royal Navy and *(b)* the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and what the anticipated in-service date is of each. [248531]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1053-54W, to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle) which provides details of Royal Navy vessels currently on order and the in-service dates.

Vessels procured as part of the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) Programme will replace elements of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. As the hon. Member will be aware from the Equipment Examination announcement on 11 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 65WS, we are currently reviewing the overall MARS requirement and procurement options, and any resultant implications for the current international competition for the Fleet Tanker element. We expect to determine a way forward later this year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission may take when it has good reason to believe that a parent with liability to pay child maintenance plans to leave the country. [249622]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission may take when it has good reason to believe that a parent with liability to pay child maintenance plans to leave the country. [249622]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has no powers to impede or to take any action simply on the basis of a current liability to pay child maintenance should a non-resident parent plan to leave the country. If a non-resident parent does not owe arrears of child maintenance payments through the Child Support Agency, then the Commission, quite rightly, has no power to prevent parents from moving abroad.

In cases where a non-resident parent has fallen into arrears, the Commission's current enforcement powers may in some cases make it more difficult for a non-resident parent to realise any assets and leave the country without settling outstanding child maintenance arrears. Whilst a non-resident parent both resides overseas and either has no assets in the UK or does not work for an employer based in the UK, there is no mechanism by which either the Commission or the parent with care may enforce the collection of Child Support Agency debt that accrued whilst the non-resident parent resided in the UK.

New enforcement powers provided by the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008, which are yet to be commenced, will allow the Commission to apply to a court to seek an order disqualifying non-resident parents who have wilfully refused or culpably neglected to pay child maintenance from holding or obtaining a travel document (such as a passport).

If a non-resident parent has left the Commission's jurisdiction, the Official Solicitor and Public Trustee is the authority in England and Wales responsible for the enforcement of maintenance orders overseas. The UK has reciprocal arrangements with more than 100 countries, which enable maintenance obligations to be established or recognised and enforced if the non-resident parent resides in one of those countries. The parent with care may apply to a magistrate's court for a maintenance order to be enforced overseas and procedures also exist to enable the parent with care to ask the foreign authorities to create an order for maintenance on their behalf. This route cannot be used to enforce Child Support Agency debt that was incurred prior to the non-resident parent's move abroad.

Further information on the reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders can be found at:

http://www.officialsolicitor.gov.uk/os/remo_role.htm.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* planned and *(b)* actual cost of each IT project completed by his Department and its agencies since 1997 was; what costs have been incurred on IT projects not yet completed; what the estimated cost of each incompleted project is; and if he will make a statement. [246904]

Jonathan Shaw: Although the Department for Work and Pensions does not have any discrete IT projects, it has a number of projects and programmes that include changes to, or new, IT to a greater or lesser extent.

The Department for Work and Pensions was created in June 2001, prior to that arrangements were the responsibility of different Departments and Agencies. The provision of actual costs for all such projects completed by the Department and its Agencies since then would only be available at a disproportionate cost. We have provided such information as is readily available in the two following tables. The first includes:

The projects and programmes currently on the Department's current portfolio where the IT element of the project or programme results in the development and/or implementation of services that underpin the delivery of departmental business.

The planned and actual investment costs of the current portfolio and the estimated cost on completion.

Table 2 details recently closed projects including planned and actual investment costs on completion. The costs of running the solutions implemented by the projects and programmes are not included in either table as in the vast majority of cases they are more than compensated for by the financial and non financial benefits they generate.

Initiatives that are associated with ongoing system improvements or enhancements as part of business as usual are also excluded.

Table 1: Current DWP IT portfolio

£ million rounded

Project	*Purpose*	*Original planned costs*	*Actual costs as at November 2008*	*Estimated cost on completion*
Employment and Support Allowance	The project delivers the systems, processes and training to support delivery of the new employment and support allowance.	295	241	295
Customer Information System	This project will deliver a database of key citizen information to be shared across DWP. The database will complement information currently available in the Department's key customer information systems, i.e. personal details computer system and departmental central index, and become their replacement. Consideration is being given for wider use of CIS by other Government Departments.	40	86	88

Table 1: Current DWP IT portfolio

£ million rounded

Project	*Purpose*	*Original planned costs*	*Actual costs as at November 2008*	*Estimated cost on completion*
Central Payments System	A modern integrated central payment engine and accounts payable system to improve accounting for benefit/ pension payments. The system will also reduce risks of service failure, increase speed and efficiency, and provide information to improve customer service and reduce fraud and error.	90	44	178
Pensions Transformation Programme	The programme will transform the Pension Service, bringing together business and IT change in ways that improve customer service and deliver efficiencies.	429	555	598
Pension Reform Delivery Programme	To co-ordinate, manage and deliver a range of measures and consequential impacts which will establish a new structure for the UK pension system long term.	151	21	118
Document Repository Service	This project seeks to support the Department's modernisation programmes through the provision of a document repository to store digitised images of documents received from customers (letters, faxes, e-mails etc.), cutting down paper in the organisation.	6	7	10
Data Centre Strategy	The project is addressing the ongoing continued threat of business service continuity with a replacement strategy for Washington Data Centre.	33	4	33
DWP Change Programme	This programme brigades a number of complementary initiatives to deliver the DWP Business Vision. It includes projects to bring in continuous improvement using lean techniques which should allow greater customer focus and efficiency in our process and business improvement projects to allow greater access to information.	245	45	246
Provider Referrals and Payment Project	Deploy an IT system to automate and e-enable payment transactions between Jobcentre Plus and training providers.	17	3	18
Local Services Integration programme	To provide local services with an IT solution that supports the end to end process making administration more efficient.	19	1	15
Government Connect	To roll out a secure data network connecting Government and local authorities, including secure file transfer, e-mail and web-browser capability.	8	6	33

Note:
Government Connect—£33 million forecast spend are the total costs of this cross government programme—planned DWP funding (£8 million), Communities and Local Government (£19 million) and Department for Children and Families (£6 million).

Table 2: Recently closed projects

£ million rounded

Project	*Purpose*	*Original planned costs*	*Actual costs of project*
Centralisation of Benefit processing	To centralise, automate and standardise benefit processing	140	118
Provider-Led pathways to work	Central to the welfare reform agenda this project will contract the private and voluntary sector to provide additional help and support for all but the most severely ill or disabled incapacity benefit customers gaining employment. Additional help will be provided through additional mandatory monthly work- focused interviews and tailored, job-focused support, including help to manage customer's health condition, especially in relation to work.	17	10
DWP IT Transformation Programme (inc TREDSS & ICONS)	Establishing new commercial arrangements with EDS for the delivery of live systems and services.	169	155
Fraud Referrals and Interventions Management System	Fraud Referrals and Intervention Management System aims to deliver modernised programme protection activity	12	30

Disability Living Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place to verify and monitor the accuracy of disability living allowance award entitlement decisions. [246579]

Jonathan Shaw: The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) has in place a number of procedures to verify and monitor the accuracy of disability living allowance (DLA) award entitlement decisions.

PDCS has a dedicated national checking team that continuously monitors a randomly selected sample of DLA outcome decisions and appeal submissions. In addition to this, DLA Operations have their own Quality Improvement Support Team that performs random checks on a sample of all recent DLA outcome decisions from each operational unit. Local operational managers also have technical checking teams who target areas of known difficulty before decisions are issued.

Each year, PDCS also performs 12,000 random case interventions under the Right Payment Programme, to ensure the accuracy and correctness of the DLA live load.

To encourage consistency of approach and better quality decisions, PDCS has introduced Customer Case Management (CCM), which provides comprehensive medical guidance for decision makers on the effects of disability, and guidance on focused further evidence gathering including more direct contact between decision makers and customers. To complement the existing checking regime, work is underway to introduce post decision checks targeted at those decisions that do not appear to conform to the medical guidance.

Jobcentre Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total budget forecast for Jobcentre Plus for the next calendar year was *(a)* in August 2008 and *(b)* following the Pre-Budget Report. [245037]

Mr. McNulty: The Department's published three year plan is available in the Library and sets out the planned expenditure of Jobcentre Plus as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The Department will publish a revised plan before the end of the current financial year providing further details on future Jobcentre Plus expenditure.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* average, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* highest salary paid to a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser is in each region; [246580]

(2) what the minimum educational requirements necessary to become a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser are; [246586]

(3) how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff are paid at the minimum wage rate. [246587]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what the *(a)* average, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* highest salary paid to a Jobcentre Plus personal adviser is in each region; what the minimum educational requirements necessary to become a personal adviser are; and how many and what proportion of Jobcentre Plus staff are paid at the minimum wage rate. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The pay scales for personal advisers are those for Executive Officer Band C. Details of the pay scales are in the following table.

£

	National	*Inner London*	*Outer London*	*Specified locations*
Minimum	19,650	23,240	21,910	21,620
Maximum	23,990	27,850	26,680	26,210

Specified locations pay zones are those where recruitment difficulties historically have led to an increase in local salary scales. Generally these apply across much of the South East, outside the London pay zones.

Our payroll system does not identify staff by job role and so it is not possible to provide an average salary for personal advisers.

Jobcentre Plus, in line with DWP-wide policy, uses competency based recruitment for all recruitment, rather than education attainment or qualifications. A few exceptions exist for specialist posts, but for personal advisers there is no minimum educational requirement.

No Jobcentre Plus staff are paid at the national minimum wage rate; all our pay rates are above the national minimum wage.

National Insurance: Fraud

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* national insurance (NI) numbers in use, *(b)* unused NI numbers and *(c)* fake or fraudulently obtained NI numbers in each of the last five years. [245252]

Mr. McNulty: The latest available figures (2007) show a total of 76.8 million national insurance number (NINO) records on the Department's Customer Information System (CIS). These consisted of:

55.1 million Active accounts—i.e. those showing current or recent use of the NINO.

16.8 million accounts relating to people who are now deceased.

4.9 million Inactive accounts—i.e. those showing no recent activity (and which do not fall into the deceased person account category) such as people who have moved abroad.

Estimates of the number of fake or fraudulently obtained NINOs are not available. DWP has robust checks in place to verify identity prior to the allocation of a NINO and to prevent NINOs being used fraudulently within the benefit system.

Where the Department identifies that a NINO has been used for attempted benefit fraud or may be vulnerable to fraudulent use, the relevant NINO record is annotated accordingly. Any subsequent benefit claim using that NINO would automatically be subjected to close scrutiny and, if appropriate, referral to the Department's Fraud Investigation Service.

The number of NINO accounts annotated for these reasons over the last five years is in the following table:

	Number of marked accounts
2003-04	2,341
2004-05	1,087
2005-06	2,521
2006-07	2,965
2007-08	3,234

Notes:
1. Each year runs from 1 April to 31 March.
2. The table is derived from management information held by Jobcentre Plus National Identity Fraud Unit.

New Deal Schemes

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in the New Deal for *(a)* Young People, *(b)* 25 Plus, *(c)* 50 Plus, *(d)* Disabled People, *(e)* Lone Parents, *(f)* Partners and *(g)* Musicians entered into work for 13 weeks in each (i) quarter and (ii) year since the scheme's inception; what proportion of participants this figure represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [246949]

Mr. McNulty: Available information has been placed in the Library.

Pension Credit

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake a review of the regulations governing the way in which the notional return for savings in excess of £6,000 are assessed for those aged over 60 and applying for pension credit. [245478]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Christchurch (Mr. Chope), on 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 578W.

Pensioners: Payments

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners had payment of their pension suspended as a result of their mail being returned by the post office to a Pensions Office in the last 12 months. [247897]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 21 January 2009]:* The information requested is not available.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy that pension payments continue to be made in circumstances where mail sent to pensioners is returned to a pensions office at least until the reasons for the return of mail have been established. [247819]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the current policy within the Department for Work and Pensions that if mail that has been sent to our customer is returned, as it appears they are no longer at that address, then inquiries are conducted before any decision to suspend payment is considered by the decision maker. These inquiries will include; telephoning last known number, a referral to local service and making inquiries of local social services to see if they know of the customer.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the Statement of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 965-82, on the Post Office Card Account, for what reason the addition of the ability to make direct debit payments through the Post Office Card Account would have made it more difficult to award the contract to the Post Office without completing the tender process. [245494]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 January 2009]:* We concluded that the contract for the Post Office card account should be awarded to the Post Office without completing the tender process. In reaching that conclusion, we took into account that the Post Office card account is a simple product—essentially a means of paying benefit—and that it provides an important social service to vulnerable people, particularly in rural and deprived urban areas. Direct debits, and other additional functionality, are already available through the basic bank accounts which can be accessed at Post Office branches. And we hope, over time, that the Post Office will be able to develop accounts with wider features, on a commercial basis.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress has been made on finalising the terms and conditions of the Post Office Card Account contract; in what respect the contract will differ from the existing contract; and when he expects negotiations to conclude. [248889]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* Good progress is being made with both parties working together towards finalising the terms and conditions of the new Post Office card account contract. Negotiations will be concluded as soon as possible.

We hope that, subject to contractual discussions with Post Office Ltd., the new product will offer some enhancements to the existing Post Office card account. These should include: a simpler opening process for customers; faster clearance of payments into an account; access via cash machines; and the ability to correct mistakes, for example if the customer withdraws more than they intended to and wants the money immediately put back into their account.

Poverty: Children

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many children in *(a)* the Vale of York and *(b)* England were considered to be in severe poverty in (i) 1999 and (ii) 2007; [247609]

(2) how many children were estimated to be in relative poverty in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [247613]

Kitty Ussher: There is no official or agreed definition of severe poverty. Child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of children in

relative poverty at Government office region level or for inner or outer London. This means information for the Vale of York is not available.

Available information is shown in the following table. Statistics based on other thresholds are given in the Households Below Average Income publication, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Numbers of children living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of median in 1999-2000, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, before housing costs, England

	Number (Million)
1999-2000	2.8
2004-05	2.3
2005-06	2.4
2006-07	2.4

Notes:
1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication "Households Below Average Income" series, which uses net disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
5. Incomes have been equivalised using OECD equivalisation factors.
6. Number of children have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 children.

Source:
Households Below Average Income, 2006-07.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children were living in poverty in Glasgow in *(a)* January 2007, *(b)* January 2008 and *(c)* January 2009. [248538]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the number of children in poverty at Government office region/national level.

Social Fund: Complaints

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* requests for a review of decision have been received by the Social Fund in each month since Jobcentre Plus assumed responsibility for handling the initial application process; and if he will make a statement. [241446]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) complaints and (b) requests for a review of decision have been received by the Social Fund in each month since Jobcentre Plus assumed responsibility for handling the initial application process; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus was introduced on 1st April, 2002 and it assumed immediate responsibility for the Social Fund application process. I have placed the available information in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what is the maximum period of time within which *(a)* benefit claimants are able to make backdated claims for benefit entitlement and *(b)* for which his Department may seek repayments of overpayments made in error. [247042]

Mr. McNulty: Each benefit has a prescribed time within which a claim must be made in order to establish entitlement—in most cases, three months. With income support and jobseeker's allowance a claim can be backdated for up to three months in certain circumstances.

There is no time limit to the period that the Department can seek to recover an overpayment, just as there is no time limit on the payment of arrears of benefit where the Department is responsible for an underpayment.

Social Security: Private Sector

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of public regulation of private sector contracted welfare services in each of the next five years. [247210]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP providers are subject to external inspection by Ofsted in England and Estyn in Wales to provide assurance that publicly funded provision is delivering a quality experience to all our customers.

During 2008-09 DWP will pay Ofsted £2,800,051 and Estyn £235,000 for external inspection and inspection related activity. The budget for 2009-10 and beyond has not yet been formally agreed.

Territorial Army

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of the Territorial Army have been made redundant from their civilian posts in each year since 2001. [248666]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

This information cannot be provided as there is no requirement for employers or reservists to report redundancies.

UN Convention on Disability Rights

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake to ratify the UN Convention on Disability Rights by spring 2009. [247012]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's intention is to achieve ratification of this important convention at the earliest practicable opportunity, and our ambition is to do so in the spring of 2009.

Unemployed: Voluntary Organisations

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures are in place in

each Jobcentre Plus district to arrange for liaison with voluntary agencies for the provision of *(a)* weekend food and *(b)* other emergency support for Jobcentre Plus customers who are not in receipt of benefit or assistance from the Social Fund. [241441]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 December 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what procedures are in place in each Jobcentre Plus district to arrange for liaison with voluntary agencies for the provision of (a) weekend food and (b) other emergency support for Jobcentre Plus customers who are not in receipt of benefit or assistance from the Social Fund. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are no such formal arrangements in place between Jobcentre Plus and voluntary agencies. Crisis Loans from the Social Fund exist to meet these needs.

Jobcentre Plus does provide emergency support through our Social Fund and Out of Hours Service. This can be accessed at weekends through third parties such as the police and social services departments where they determine that a crisis loan may help to prevent serious risk to health and safety. Referrals are made to the Out of Hours Service by telephone and our officers may then visit a customer in their home to make a determination of need and make a payment.

Unemployment

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely rate of unemployment in each month of 2009. [248683]

Mr. McNulty: The Government set out their assessment of prospects for the economy in the pre-Budget report. As has been the practice of previous Governments, we do not publish forecasts for unemployment.

Vacancies

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the projected numbers of full time equivalent posts in Jobcentre Plus are in each of the next five years; when the projections were last revised; and what the projections were before that revision. [244216]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the projected numbers of full time equivalent posts in Jobcentre Plus are in each of the next five years; when the projections were last revised; and what the projections were before that revision. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Projections for numbers of full time equivalent posts in Jobcentre Plus are only available for the three years covered by the Department's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 07. We do not have future information yet about the next CSR settlement. The table below shows the original numbers of full time equivalent posts in Jobcentre Plus projected in each of these years and how these numbers have been revised from November 2008 in light of the pre Budget Report statement. Numbers for March 2011 are under review and a firm figure is not yet available.

March each year	*Original Projected Number*	*Revised Estimated Number (as at December 2008)*
2009	65,453	69,000
2010	61,985	72,700
2011	58,529	—

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which constituencies are covered by each weather station used to calculate cold weather payments; [243133]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* cold weather payments made and *(b)* recipients of cold weather payments in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency. [243134]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices with each sponsoring employer were aged over 25 years *(a)* in 2007-08 and *(b)* to date in 2008-09. [250211]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the total number of apprenticeship starts for those aged 25 or over at the start of their course in the 2007-08 academic year and August-October 2008 (2008-09), the latest period for which published information is available.

This information was published in a statistical first release on 18 December 2008. Information is not available by individual employer.

Table 1: Number of apprenticeship starts for learners aged 25 and over at the start of their course.

Level	*2007-08*[1]	*2008-09*[2]
Apprenticeship (level 2)	14,600	9,100
Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3)	12,600	7,700
Total	27,200	16,800

[1] Full year
[2] August-October 2008

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Higher Level Apprenticeships are included with Advanced Apprenticeships.
3. Provisional data for 2008-09 are subject to a data lag in the region of +5 per cent.

Source:
WBL Individualised Learner Record

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many of the 35,000 extra apprenticeship places for 2009-10 referred to in the departmental press release of 7 January 2009 are additional to those referred to in the most recent annual grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council of 18 November 2008; [250346]

(2) how many of the additional apprenticeship places referred to in the departmental press release of 7 January 2009 are expected to be in *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* the private sector. [250373]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places over the coming year in both the public and private sectors to help strengthen the country's competitiveness. The 7 January Press release by my Department provided further information about the package.

All of the extra 35,000 places announced as part of the £140 million package will be available for new places in 2009-10 are additional to those places outlined in the Department's 18 November 2008 Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council.

While we expect the public sector to deliver a significant proportion of the additional opportunities, we have not set a target for the balance between public and private sector which will be determined by employer demand.

Departmental Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many internships were *(a)* offered by and *(b)* taken up within the Department in 2007-08; and how many have been (i) offered and (ii) taken up to date in 2008-09. [250212]

Mr. Simon: The Department made a combined bid with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for 30 interns from the Cabinet Office Summer Development and Placement Programmes. The Department bid for four interns and placed three of them in summer 2008. In addition, the Department placed two students on the Windsor Fellowship in summer 2008 which is a leadership programme offering six week internships to talented undergraduate students from ethnic minorities.

The Department has made a similar bid with the DCSF for 15 Summer Development Interns and 15 Summer Placement Interns for summer 2009. The number to be offered places in the Department is yet to be confirmed. We expect the process to be completed by Easter with a view to interns taking up posts in July and August 2009.

The Department has also offered two places to students on the Windsor Fellowship which commences in summer 2009.

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's annual budget was spent on the provision of foundation degrees in each year since the introduction of that qualification. [249108]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the percentage of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)'s annual budget represented by recurrent teaching allocations explicitly associated with foundation degree students since 2001-02 when foundation degrees were formally established. The latest data available are for 2006-07.

	Foundation funding as a percentage of total HEFCE budget
2001-02	0.2
2002-03	0.6
2003-04	1.0
2004-05	1.6
2005-06	2.2
2006-07	2.7

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people enrolled on a higher national diploma course in each year since 2001; and what the drop-out rate has been in each year since 2001. [249107]

Mr. Lammy: Table 1 shows the number of enrolments on higher national diplomas (HND) since 2001/02. 'Foundation Degrees 2008/13' is the latest report from HEFCE, however, this does not contain figures for HND students. Therefore figures for the 2006/07 academic year are the latest available.

Table 1: Home, EU and overseas enrolments on higher national diplomas English higher education institutions and further education colleges, academic years 2000/102 to 2006/07

Academic year	*Enrolments*
2001/02	63,285
2002/03	57,720
2003/04	49,215
2004/05	39,980
2005/06	34,005
2006/07	25,815

Notes:
Number of overseas enrolments for 2005/06 and 2006/07 has been estimated by assuming they represent the same proportion as for the previous years students, that is 4.8 per cent for full-time and 1.7 per cent for part-time.
Source:
'Foundation degrees 2007/03' report published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). Columns 1 + 2 of HESES and HEIFES (2006/07 values are provisional).

Table 2 shows the latest information on the progression of higher national diploma students. 'Foundation Degrees 2008/13' is the latest report from HEFCE, however, this does not contain figures for HND students. Therefore figures for the 2003/04 year of entry are the latest available.

Table 2: Home higher national diploma students by progression and institution type English higher education institutions and further education colleges year of entry 2003/04

Institution type	Progression	Number	Percentage
FECs	All FEC entrants	9,915	100
	of which:		
	Change to FE Level course	410	4
	Not studying	3,140	32
HEIs	All HEI entrants	12,635	100
	of which:		
	Change to FE Level course	165	1
	Not studying	1,915	15

Notes:
1. Institution type refers to the institution the student is registered with.
2. Study in the following year includes students registered for any FE or HE study in HEIs in the UK, and students registered for any HE or FE study in FECs in England. Any study outside this coverage is not included and the students will be categorised as 'not studying'.

Source:
'Foundation degrees 2007/03' report published by Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Figures in Table 1 cover Home, EU and Overseas enrolments, whereas figures in Table 2 cover Home entrants only.

The number of students on foundation degrees programmes now exceeds the number of students studying for HNDs. However, this growth has taken place against a background of declining numbers of students studying towards HNDs and HNCs. This decline predates the introduction of foundation degrees. According to a study by the Learning and Skills Development Agency (LSDA), even when foundation degrees were first introduced, this was not the main reason for institutions discontinuing HND and HNC provision (LSDA 2002). Since then the decline in HND and HNCs has accelerated, at least in part due to the growth in foundation degrees.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he plans to send the annual grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 2009-10. [250215]

Mr. Lammy: The annual grant letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) for 2009-10 was published today 22 January 2009. I have placed a copy in the Library.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list each successful application to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for projects *(a)* to be funded, *(b)* to be partly-funded and *(c)* to be funded by loans via the strategic development fund during (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008; and how much funding was sought in each case. [250446]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has published a list of projects funded by the Strategic Development Fund on its website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/finance/fundinghe/sdf/

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what applications to the Higher Education Funding Council for England for projects *(a)* to be funded, *(b)* to be partly funded and *(c)* to be loan funded via the Strategic Development Fund were not accepted during (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [250530]

Mr. Lammy: This information is not held in the form requested. Proposals to the Strategic Development Fund are developed iteratively between the HEIs and the Council's institutional teams, sometimes over a lengthy period. Projects that then come forward for funding have been thoroughly tested and hence are very rarely rejected. HEFCE's institutional teams have regular informal discussions with HEIs to discuss emerging proposals and many are turned back at that stage, and are not recorded.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people normally resident *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the north-east and *(d)* nationwide have been registered at university in each year since 1997. [249562]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is given in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available on 29 January 2009.

Enrolments[1] at UK higher education institutions from Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North-east government office region[2] and England, academic years 1997/98 to 2006/07

Academic year	Jarrow	South Tyneside	North-east	England
1997/98	1,765	3,095	[2]67,795	1,272,780
1998/99	1,805	3,125	[2]70,715	1,308,300
1999/2000	1,790	3,090	60,890	1,309,505
2000/01	1,715	2,930	62,940	1,330,120
2001/02	1,775	3,000	64,705	1,377,475
2002/03	1,875	3,250	68,120	1,435,655
2003/04	1,985	3,420	69,980	1,482,580
2004/05	2,160	3,765	70,590	1,524,120
2005/06	2,095	3,625	71,240	1,533,770
2006/07	2,040	3,595	72,465	1,494,595

[1] Covers all students on any year of a course. Includes students on both full-time or part-time courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level including the Open University.
[2] Figures for the 1997/98 and 1998/99 academic years relate to the north of England, rather than the north-east due to a change in the classification of government office regions. Therefore, figures for this region from these two years cannot be directly compared to other years in the time series.

Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overall, for all students from England, the UCAS figures show that, compared to 2007, applicants to full-time undergraduate courses who had been accepted for entry in 2008, rose by 7.4 per cent. to 329,700, the highest ever. This comes on the back of a rise in accepted applicants of 6.1 per cent. between 2006 and 2007.

Intellectual Property

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will reconsider his response to the recommendations contained in the Gowers report on intellectual property. [249476]

Mr. Lammy: A functioning intellectual property system is an essential enabler to encourage innovation and economic recovery. The Gowers Review concluded that the intellectual property framework in the UK was broadly right. It did however highlight a number of areas for reform which it set out in a number of specific recommendations. Over half of these recommendations have been implemented. Work is continuing on the remainder. Meanwhile, the Government continue to attach priority to IP issues. The Creative Britain Report recognised the importance of IP, in particular copyright to the creative industries. As part of this report the Government have improved IP crime intelligence gathering and coordination of enforcement agencies. I also recently announced a broad review of the future of copyright to ensure that it continues to support creativity, promote investment and job growth while also inspiring business and consumer confidence.

Outdoor Education

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of fieldwork and out-of-classroom activity in developing practical skills for use *(a)* at undergraduate level, *(b)* at postgraduate level and *(c)* in employment; and if he will make a statement. [247954]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not made a formal assessment of the benefits of fieldwork and out-of-classroom activity. However, there is a body of research that demonstrates the value of learning outside the classroom to which the Department has contributed; key reports can be found at:

www.lotc.org.uk/resources/research

Ofsted's report "Learning outside the classroom: how far should you go?" was published on 2 October 2008. A key finding is

"When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development."

To support and develop teachers in using fieldwork as high quality learning experiences, a network of science learning centres provides a range of continuing professional development opportunities throughout the year. These cover chemistry, physics and biology and all key stages of the science curriculum.

Through the Government funded Action Plan for Geography, the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association have developed online resources and guidance. These are available at:

http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/

and include a virtual fieldwork and local learning centre to help teachers make the most of geography in their local areas. The website contains expert advice on embedding fieldwork in the curriculum.

The Department has made no assessment of whether the encouragement of fieldwork as a teaching method is adequately supported by teacher training courses. However, the current standards for the award of qualified teacher status (QTS) set out what trainee teachers must demonstrate before they can be recommended for the award. QTS Standard Q30 requires that all trainees demonstrate that they can

"establish a purposeful and safe learning environment conducive to learning and identify opportunities for learners to learn in out-of-school contexts".

Training and Development Agency for Schools guidance to this standard states that

"trainees should be able to identify opportunities for children and young people to learn in the school grounds and in out-of-school contexts such as museums, theatres, field centres and work settings".

All initial teacher training provision is inspected by Ofsted to ensure that training is designed and delivered to enable every trainee to meet all of the QTS standards, including standard Q30 that relates to learning outside of the classroom.

Through the manifesto for learning outside the classroom, DCSF is supporting "Teaching Outside the Classroom" at:

www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com

which facilitates placements for trainee teachers in settings such as museums, city farms and field study centres.

The Government have no plans to commission research to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the state of fieldwork in secondary science education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Students: Loans

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what his latest estimate is of the amount overpaid in student loan repayments due to late notification of the Student Loans Company by HM Revenue and Customs of the full repayment of a loan in the last 12 month period for which data are available; [248551]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the average time taken for HM Revenue and Customs to notify the Student Loans Company that a student loan has been repaid in full. [248552]

Mr. Lammy: Repayment of student loans depends on the income of the borrower: the repayment rate is 9 per cent. of income over the equivalent of £15,000 per annum which is collected through HM Revenue and Customs alongside income tax and national insurance contributions. The repayment amount therefore varies according to their income.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) reconciles borrowers' loan accounts at the end of each financial year. There may be overpayments when a borrower

comes to the end of repaying their loan, which are refunded with interest, but these are not caused by late notification by HM Revenue and Customs.

The SLC is putting a number of measures in place to help customers avoid overpayment by giving them the option to make final repayments outside the tax system, via direct debit, to ensure they do not overpay. SLC have also introduced new guidance and tools, including an online calculator, to help customers work out their loan balance, and therefore when they are likely to pay their loan in full.

Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of internships offered nationwide in 2007-08. [250213]

Mr. Lammy: The value of internships for undergraduates and for graduates is well established. That is why we want to increase internship opportunities for unemployed graduates, as just one part of this Government's overall package to support individuals through the economic downturn. We have not made an estimate of the number of internships offered in 2007-08 but a significant proportion of the larger graduate employers offer such places as part of their recruitment processes. We will build on such existing good practice as we work with relevant stakeholders to develop our proposals.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which academies are categorised in the national challenge; and if he will make a statement. [248635]

Jim Knight: There are 32 Academies (listed in the following table) where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five or more A* - C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE in 2008 and which are categorised in the National Challenge.

Barnsley Academy
Bradford Academy
Business Academy, Bexley
Capital City Academy
City Academy, Bristol
Eastbourne Academy (Darlington)
Folkestone Academy
Gateway Academy
Grace Academy, Solihull
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy
Harefield Academy
Harris Academy, Peckham
Havelock Academy
John Madejski Academy
Marlowe Academy
New Line Learning Academy
North Oxfordshire Academy
Oasis Academy, Immingham
Oasis Academy, Winteringham
Northampton Academy
Sheffield Park Academy
Sheffield Springs Academy
Stockport Academy
St. Francis of Assisi Academy
St. Mark's Academy
St. Matthew Academy
St. Michael's and All Angels Academy
Stockley Academy
Swindon Academy
Thomas Deacon Academy
Westminster Academy
Unity Academy

Academies are leading the way in reducing low attainment. For the 36 academies with results in both 2007 and 2008 there has been an increase of 4.3 percentage points in the FIVE or more A* to C figure, including English and maths, compared to 2.5 percentage points nationally.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee; and if he will make a statement. [247265]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Formal reviews of the effectiveness of the Department's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee have been undertaken periodically at the request of the chair since 2005 in line with H.M. Treasury Guidance within the Audit Committee Handbook. The most recent was delivered in February 2008. Feedback for these reviews is provided by board members, other senior departmental managers, and the independent committee members.

Care Proceedings

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many applications for care proceedings were made by local authorities in November *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [248904]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 in November 2007 and November 2008 are given in the following table. Public law cases are those brought by local authorities or an authorised person (currently only the NSPCC). Figures relate to the number of children that are subject to each application and have been rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that 2008 figures are provisional.

Comparisons between single months should be made with caution as the monthly figures are subject to more volatility than those covering longer time periods.

Number of public law care and supervision applications under section 31 of the Children Act 1989 England and Wales; county courts and family proceedings courts

	November 2007	November 2008
Family proceedings courts[1]	920	1,090
County courts[2]	240	160
Total	1,150	1,240

[1] There have been data quality issues with figures for family proceedings courts. A new method of collection was introduced in April 2007 which has improved the coverage and completeness of data.

[2] Research undertaken on behalf of Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the family proceedings court to the county court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the county court, thus inflating the reported number of new applications through double counting (see Masson et al 2008).

Source:
HMCS FamilyMan and manual returns, as at January 2009

Charities

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families to which *(a)* charities and *(b)* voluntary organisations his Department has provided funding in the last five years; and how much funding was provided to each. [247365]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested can be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children on the Child Protection Register were taken into care in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [241400]

Beverley Hughes: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March and who were also looked after on that date is shown in the following table.

Children who were the subject of a child protection plan (CPP) who were also looked after on that date[1]: Years at 31 March 1997 to 2008—Coverage: England

	Numbers	Percentage of total who were the subject of a plan[2]
1997	7,900	24
1998	7,800	25
1999	7,900	25
2000	7,100	23
2001	5,400	20
2002	4,600	18
2003	4,200	16
2004	3,400	13
2005	3,000	12
2006	2,600	10
2007	2,400	9
2008	2,200	8

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[2] The number of looked after children who were the subject of a CPP at 31 March, expressed as a percentage of all children who were the subject of a CPP at that date.

The latest figures on the numbers and percentage of children subject to child protection plans or placed on the Child Protection Register were published in a Statistical First Release (SFR) 24/2008 'Referrals, Assessments and Children and

Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—Year ending 31 March 2008' on 16 September 2008. A copy of this release is available on my Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2008; [247004]

(2) what percentage of children referred to children's social care received an initial assessment within seven working days in 2007; [247006]

(3) what percentage of child protection plans last for two or more years; [247387]

(4) what percentage of children became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in 2007; [247388]

(5) what percentage of core assessments for children's social care were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement in the last three years. [247389]

Beverley Hughes: 29,200 children were the subject of a child protection plan at 31 March 2008. In the year ending 31 March 2008:

71 per cent. of children referred to children's social care received an initial assessment within seven working days.

5 per cent. of children whose child protection plan was discontinued were a subject of a plan for two or more years.

14 per cent. of children became the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.

80 per cent. of core assessments for children's social care were carried out within 35 working days of initial assessments in the year ending 31 March 2008, 78 per cent. in the year ending 31 March 2007 and 74 per cent. in the year ending 31 March 2006.

These figures have been taken from the statistical first release "Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of a Child Protection Plan, England—year ending 31 March 2008", which can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml.

Figures are for England only.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 1114W, on children: protection, how many representations concerning child protection his Department has referred to the Commission for Social Care Inspection or Ofsted since its inception. [247865]

Beverley Hughes: It is not possible to quantify the number of cases referred to inspectorates by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The Department receives representations across a wide range of issues including on child protection, mostly in the form of correspondence. Some of these are shared with inspectorates for information whilst other matters may be passed to them on a more formal basis where specific action may be appropriate. In addition, local authorities are required in particular circumstances to notify Ofsted of the details of particular events, including those relating to serious incidents involving children or with respect to incidents occurring in settings for which Ofsted has regulatory functions. Other issues raised by correspondents with the Department may be pursued directly with local authorities or other agencies through the Department's regional Government office network.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to assist social workers in protecting children. [247943]

Beverley Hughes: In April 2008, we announced a £73 million package of support for social workers who work with children and families. This package includes the Newly Qualified Social Worker pilot programme which will support social workers in their first year of practice including through improved supervision by their managers. Other pilot projects will seek to address the development needs of those in the second and third years of practice; to recognise and encourage more experienced and skilled social workers to stay in frontline posts; and to develop management and leadership skills. More information on this package of work which is being delivered by the Children's Workforce Development Council can be found here:

http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/social-work

In December 2008 we announced a Social Work Taskforce which will consider what makes a difference to outcomes for children in terms of social work practice. The taskforce will make recommendations to Government later this year.

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research his Department is funding into effective child protection practice; and which such research it has funded in the last three years. [249533]

Beverley Hughes: Under the Safeguarding Children Research Initiative DCSF, in partnership with the Department of Health, have commissioned a suite of studies to support the Government's programme of reform to improve early recognition and cost-effective interventions to protect children. The Safeguarding Children Research Initiative runs until 2010 and includes 11 studies covering three themes: recognition of neglect and emotional abuse; impact of interventions; and inter-agency working. In addition, the Department has commissioned various other projects to inform effective practice in safeguarding children.

The following table gives a full list of studies.

Table of Studies

Safeguarding Research Initiative

Report title	*Contractors*
Theme—Recognition of neglect and emotional abuse	
1. Neglected adolescents: a review of the literature and the preparation of guides for multi-disciplinary teams and young people	M. Stein (University of York)
2. Noticing and helping the neglected child: a review of the literature	B. Daniel, J. Taylor, J. Scott and M. Barbour, (University of Dundee)
3. Does training in a systematic approach to emotional abuse improve the quality of children's services?	D. Glaser and V. Prior (Institute of Child Health)
Theme—Impact of interventions	
4. A systematic review of the effectiveness of interventions in reducing emotional abuse	J. Barlow and A. Schrader McMillan (University of Warwick)
5. Case management and outcomes for neglected children: a six year follow-up study of neglected children who have been looked after and reunified	E. Farmer and E. Lutman, (University of Bristol
6. Systematic reviews of interventions following physical abuse: helping practitioners and expert witnesses improve the outcomes of child abuse	P. Montgomery, P. Ramchandani, F. Gardner and G. Bjornstad, (University of Oxford)
7. Outcomes for looked after children placed for reasons of abuse or neglect: the consequences of staying in care or returning home.	J. Wade, N. Biehal and I. Sinclair (University of York)
Theme—Interagency Working	
8. The outcomes of interprofessional training to safeguard children	J. Carpenter and E. Szilassy (University of Bristol), and S. Hackett (University of Durham)
9. Understanding parents' information needs and experiences when professional concerns of non-accidental injury were not substantiated	L. Haines and S. Komulainen (Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health)
10. Inter-agency working Conflicts of interest for GPs in safeguarding children	H. Tompsett (Kingston University)
11. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the new Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).	A. France and E. Munro (CRSP, University of Loughborough)
Overview	
12. Overview Report of the Safeguarding Research Initiative	H. Ward (CCfR, University of Loughborough)

Quality Matters Research Initiative—selected studies

Some studies included in the Quality Matters Research Initiative, which ran alongside and informed the Quality Protects programme, continue to inform the Safeguarding of children agenda.

Report title	*Contractors*
The response of child protection practices and procedures to children exposed to domestic violence or drug or alcohol abuse within their families	H. Cleaver et al (University of London)
The reunification of looked after children with their parents: patterns, interventions and outcomes	E. Farmer and T. O'Neill (University of Bristol)
Outcomes for children placed with family and friends as a results of care proceedings	J. Hunt and S. Waterhouse (University of Oxford)

Other current safeguarding research:

Report title	*Contractors*
Safeguarding and promoting child welfare—how have public organisations responded to Section 11 of the Children's Act? ('Section 11 Audit')	Ipsos MORI
Preventing Childhood Deaths: a Study of 'Early Starter' Child Death Overview Panels in England	P. Sidebotham, J. Fox, J. Horwath, C. Powell and S. Perwez (Universities of Warwick, Sheffield and Southampton)
Preventing Future Child Deaths—Supplementary Survey 2008	P Sidebotham (University of Warwick)
Analysis of Serious Case Reviews (2005-2007)	M. Brandon, (University of East Anglia)
Protecting and Promoting the well-being of very young children: a prospective study of babies in need or at risk of significant harm.	H. Ward (CCfR, University of Loughborough)
Costs and Consequences of Child Welfare Interventions (the Cost Calculator)	H. Ward (CCfR, University of Loughborough)
Forced Marriage: towards understanding the scale of the problem and the way in which services respond to cases involving children and young people	National Centre for Social Research and Dr. Nazia Khanum

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps he has taken in respect of child protection in Birmingham. [250071]

Beverley Hughes: In response to Ofsted's judgment of 'inadequate' for 'Staying Safe' in Birmingham city council's 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA), officials from DCSF met with the Council on 17 December to identify what action is being taken to tackle the underlying causes of inadequate performance. Ministers will decide shortly the form of any intervention that may be necessary to bring about swiftly the required improvements to the service and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Children: Sport

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made towards meeting the targets to provide every child with the opportunity to participate in five hours of sport every week; and if he will make a statement. [246996]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The PE and Sport Strategy for Young People came into operation from September 2008. At its heart is a commitment to provide two hours of high quality PE and Sport each week within the school day, for all five to16-year-olds, and up to a further three hours of sporting opportunities beyond the school day for all five to19-year-olds. We expect to have data for the first year of the new strategy in autumn 2009.

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching assistants became higher level teaching assistants in each year since 1997. [248869]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants (TAs) and higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs) employed in local authority maintained schools in England, January 1997 to 2008 (from 2005 only for HLTAs).

Full-time equivalent teaching assistants and higher level teaching assistants in local authority maintained schools, years: January 1997 to 2008—Coverage: England

	Teaching assistants[1]	*of which Higher level teaching assistants*
1997	60,580	n/a
1998	65,540	n/a
1999	69,600	n/a
2000	79,020	n/a
2001	94,990	n/a
2002	105,360	n/a
2003	121,190	n/a
2004	132,060	n/a
2005	147,000	1,010
2006	153,100	5,500
2007	162,990	8,990
2008	175,660	11,690

n/a=Not applicable

[1] Includes higher level teaching assistants (2005 onwards), nursery nurses, nursery assistants, literacy and numeracy support staff, special needs support staff, minority ethnic pupil support staff and any other non-teaching staff regularly employed to support teachers in the classroom.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
School Census

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since its inception. [248250]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since the Department was created in July 2007, there has been one investigation into the temporary loss of a laptop computer. Disciplinary action in relation to this new case has begun, but is not yet completed.

The Department takes any breach of security very seriously and may take disciplinary action against those who commit such breaches. Policies and guidance on IT security are available to all staff on the departmental intranet. Logging into the Department's IT system requires that staff agree to abide by these policies.

Departmental Equality

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the progress made against his Department's Equality and Diversity Delivery Plan. [247188]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's Diversity Delivery Plan has recently been sent to Cabinet Office for review and therefore it is too early to make any assessment against progress. We will evaluate the plan later in the year and review its impact on a yearly basis.

Departmental Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on furniture made by *(a)* British firms, *(b)* Remploy and *(c)* overseas firms since it was established. [244361]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. The total expenditure on office furniture for its headquarter buildings in 2007-08 was £2,323,834. All of the furniture was manufactured by British firms. No furniture was made by Remploy or overseas firms.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors spent on pensions for former employees in each of the last 10 years. [247304]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is a multi-employer occupational pension scheme for civil servants employed by Government Departments, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families, as well as some other public bodies.

The payments from the PCSPS are contained in the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts, which are laid before Parliament each year. These accounts do not contain breakdowns for individual employers.

Departmental Surveys

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the findings of his Department's staff survey which commenced in April 2008 were. [247187]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Cabinet Office publish the results of all Departmental Staff Surveys. The findings from the Department's last staff survey in April 2008 can be found on this site at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/staff_surveys.asp

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many people have received notices of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance but have not enrolled on a course in the last 12 months; [249227]

(2) how many people have yet to receive an education maintenance allowance payment to which they are entitled. [249228]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people *(a)* in Jarrow constituency, *(b)* in South Tyneside, *(c)* in the North East and *(d)* nationwide have received education maintenance allowance in each year since its inception. [249560]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have *(a)* received a notice of entitlement for the education maintenance allowance (EMA), *(b)* successfully enrolled on a course of study and *(c)* received at least one (EMA) payment in (i) Kent local authority area and (ii) Ashford constituency since the introduction of the allowance. [249187]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the Member for Ashford (Damian Green) with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in both Libraries.

Expect Respect

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many local education authorities have encouraged schools to use the Expect Respect education toolkit; [247668]

(2) what guidance his Department has provided to local education authorities on use of the Expect Respect education toolkit. [247669]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on how many local education authorities have encouraged schools to use the Expect Respect education toolkit, nor do we endorse or recommend any particular provider or approach to the use of external education materials. We believe that schools and local authorities are best placed to decide which resources/materials to use and support.

Global Fellowships Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effects of the Global Fellowships programme's initiative to provide young people with work and cultural experiences in *(a)* China, *(b)* India and *(c)* Brazil; and if he will make a statement. [247271]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: An interim evaluation of the Prime Minister's Global Fellowship will be published by the Department and the British Council in the spring.

Graduate Leader Fund

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what funding his Department has allocated to the Graduate Leader Fund over the next three years; [247417]

(2) how much he expects to be available from Graduate Leader Fund in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [247288]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has allocated £305 million to the Graduate Leader Fund for the three years 2008-2011. This includes £232 million to be allocated via local authorities for early years settings in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors to recruit and retain graduate practice leaders and £73 million to enable the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) to establish a supply of professionals with Early Years Professional Status.

Of this funding, the Department has made £99 million available in the next financial year 2009-10. £75 million has been allocated for recruitment and retention of graduate leaders and £24 million to CWDC.

Mathematics

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress is being made in the implementation of recommendation 3 of the Williams Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools. [247332]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Williams Review recommended that a maths specialist teacher should be available to every primary school by 2019. A small pathfinder project is currently running to test issues relating to the training for maths specialists. This was launched in October 2008 and involves seven LAs with eight schools in each, and a total of 56 trainee teachers. Early evidence shows a positive reaction from the teachers involved and the training improving their confidence, enjoyment and understanding of mathematics.

National Apprenticeship Service

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the National Apprenticeship Service to be established. [247242]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 'World-class Apprenticeships' announced that from April 2009 there would be a separately branded, customer-facing National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) which will have end-to-end responsibility for the apprenticeship programme in England, including ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets.

Good progress is being made in setting up the NAS and the chief executive, Simon Waugh, will take up post on 2 February. The NAS is on track to be fully operational from April 2009.

Excellent progress is also being made on the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (NAVMS). The web-based matching service was launched on 12 January and the full service to employers and would-be apprentices will be in place in April 2009.

National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Centre

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) whether he expects the National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Centre to open in 2009; [247407]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* annual running cost of the National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Centre. [247408]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Resource Centre is grant funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation rather than the Department for Children, Schools and Families. I am unable to confirm when it is due to open and have made no estimate of the capital and running costs involved.

Pupils: Broadband

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent assessment of the level of access to broadband at home is for *(a)* all primary school pupils and *(b)* primary school pupils from lower income households. [250606]

Jim Knight: The most recent research[1] published by the Department found that 90 per cent. of parents of school-aged children in England reported that they had computer and internet access at home. Among parents of primary age children the figure was 89 per cent. for parents of children in Key Stage 1, and 88 per cent. for children in Key Stage 2.

[1] Peters et al, Parental Involvement in Children's Education, London, DCSF, 2007

www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR034.pdf

The research showed a variation in connectivity by social class. Among parents in social class E, 69 per cent. had a computer with internet access. The research did not distinguish broadband and dial-up connectivity. However Government statistics[2] show that most UK households with internet connectivity have a broadband connection: 65 percent of households had any Internet access and 56 per cent. had broadband access.

[2] National Statistics Omnibus Survey 2008

www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/nugget.asp?ID=8

Schools: PFI

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many contracts with private providers under private finance initiative schemes have been signed for school capital projects in each of the last six months. [249101]

Jim Knight: The following contracts have been signed which include private finance initiative in each of the last six months:

Islington—July 2008

Kent—October 2008

Schools: Pigmeat

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pork served in schools in *(a)* East Devon constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England was locally sourced in the last five years. [247561]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect this information. Decisions on food procurement are down to individual schools and local authorities. To assist them in this the School Food Trust has published "A fresh look at school food procurement: efficiency and sustainability"—guidance for schools and local authorities on how efficient and sustainable food procurement can be pursued in tandem.

The guidance actively promotes the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), which aims to increase tenders from small and local producers and improve their ability to do business. The guide encourages buyers to identify and reduce barriers to small and medium-sized local enterprises (which may prevent them from tendering) and recognises that smaller suppliers can compete with larger businesses. It also recognises that their participation in the public sector supply chain can benefit local and regional economies. The Trust's website also contains a number of case studies where local authorities and schools demonstrate how they have successfully tendered for local produce for their meals' service.

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families by what means his Department monitors and records the number of racially-triggered events occurring in schools; how many such events there were in maintained schools in Norfolk in the last 12 months; what steps he is taking to reduce the number of such events in the future; and if he will make a statement. [247763]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families issued its 'Recording and reporting racist incidents guidance' in December 2006. It is for individual local authorities to record, monitor and investigate the number of incidents in their schools.

Between 1 April 2008 and 13 January 2009, Norfolk county council has stated that 283 racist incidents were reported by schools. Between April 2007 and March 2008, 293 incidents were reported.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in the National Challenge programme were oversubscribed in September *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and if he will make a statement. [249972]

Jim Knight: Data on schools that are oversubscribed are not collected centrally.

Schools: Vetting

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects all Criminal Records Bureau checks on existing *(a)* head teachers, *(b)* teachers and *(c)* non-teaching school staff to have been completed. [249570]

Jim Knight: Schools are not required to obtain CRB enhanced disclosures on staff who have been in post since before the CRB was established in 2002, although schools are required to check that such staff are not barred from working with children. When the new Vetting and Barring Scheme is introduced, such staff will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority and to obtain a CRB enhanced disclosure. The new scheme will be phased in over a period of up to five years, but staff—including school staff—who have never had a CRB disclosure will have high priority in the phasing-in process. Although we cannot say precisely when this will be complete, staff without CRB disclosures will be taken early in the phasing process. The arrangements apply equally to head teachers, teachers and other staff.

Science: GCSE

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible to receive free school meals attained a GCSE in *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology at grade A* in the latest year for which figures are available. [243852]

Jim Knight: The table shows the number and percentage of pupils achieving grade A* in Physics, Chemistry and Biology by eligibility of free school meals in 2008 as a proportion of pupils at the end of KS4.

	Non-FSM		FSM		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Physics	9,727	1.9	173	0.2	9,900	1.7
Chemistry	9,982	1.9	217	0.3	10,199	1.7
Biology	9,174	1.8	173	0.2	9,347	1.6

The number and percentage of pupils achieving grade A* as a proportion of the total number of entries.

	Non-FSM		FSM		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Physics	9,727	19.2	173	8.3	9,900	18.8
Chemistry	9,982	19.6	217	10.2	10,199	19.2
Biology	9,174	16.5	173	6.4	9,347	16.0

Note:
Data is provisional and subject to change. The data also relates to pupils at the end of KS4 in maintained schools only.
Source: National Pupil Database

Social Services: Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his assessment of the availability of emergency accommodation for children or young people who need an immediate place of safety is in each children's services area. [250604]

Beverley Hughes: The provision of emergency accommodation for young people who need it is the responsibility of local authorities. Support services for runaways should be determined and run through local children's trusts and other stakeholders, according to local service needs. Local authority children's services are therefore best placed to assess the type and levels of support required, including, where appropriate, accommodation. This could include emergency foster care or short-term placement in a children's home, as well as counselling and mediation services, but the exact mix will vary, according to locally determined need.

The National Indicator NI71: Children missing from home or care, becomes effective from 1 April 2009. Local authorities will be asked to self assess the services, information and processes that they have in place to respond to the needs of young runaways using a self assessment tool developed for this purpose.

In order to support local authority children's services in their provision of emergency accommodation my Department is funding research that will identify successful and cost effective commissioning models using services provided by the voluntary sector, and by helping commissioners at every level understand more about young people's perceptions of different models of emergency accommodation.

Social Services: Doncaster

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reports have been produced by Paul Gray on the state of children's services in Doncaster; and if he will make them public. [248698]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The Department does not hold this information since Dr. Paul Gray, interim Director of Children's Services for Doncaster Metropolitan borough council, does not report directly to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. Assessment of the performance of children's services in Doncaster is carried out by means of OfSTED inspections, the most recent of which was the 2008 Annual Performance Assessment (APA). Doncaster's APA letter was published on 17 December 2008. It can be found at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/4722/(as)/APA/apa_2008371.pdf

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres were built in each of the last 12 months. [249302]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* The figures in the following table show the number of new Sure Start Children's Centres designated each month throughout 2008. These figures include centres where some activities take place in pre-existing, refurbished buildings, for example, at a school site.

Sure Start Centres designated

	Number
January	230
February	346
March	441
April	1
May	0
June	1
July	1
August	1
September	4
October	0
November	2
December	2

Teachers: Offenders

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teachers in the maintained sector have received an *(a)* conviction and *(b)* police caution. [248326]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Teachers: Pay

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on teachers of the end of management allowance safeguarding on 31 December 2008 and the introduction of teaching and learning responsibility payments; and how many teachers are affected by *(a)* that change and *(b)* the change in the amount of pay received by teachers as a result of the new time limit on safeguarding. [249013]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available centrally, however based on a sample of local authorities we estimate that between 2 and 4 per cent. of teachers may be affected. Management allowances (MA) ceased to exist on 31 December 2005. Under the terms of the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD) a teacher who was in receipt of a MA on 31 December 2005 was entitled to salary safeguarding for a maximum of three years until 31 December 2008, in which to adjust to the reduction in their income.

Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments (TLR) were introduced from 1 January 2006 and are now well embedded in the system and are being used to properly reward those who are undertaking a significant responsibility beyond those required of all classroom teachers.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reservations his Department is seeking to enter in relation to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [248194]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. McGuire) on 6 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 30WS. We are considering the precise wording of any reservation.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16 to 18 year-olds were not in education, employment and training in each year since April 2001. [249239]

Beverley Hughes: Estimates of participation in education for those of academic age 16-18, including the number and proportion estimated to be Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), are published annually by the Department in a Statistical First Release (SFR) each June on the Department's website

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000792/index.shtml.

The historical information sought on the numbers and percentages of young people NEET can be found in the following two excel files downloadable at the link above:

"More detailed participation rates, including tables back to 1985"

and

"More detailed participation numbers, including tables back to 1985"

These provide the following estimates of 16-18 NEET, based on academic age, and relating to a snapshot at the end of each calendar year:

End	*Number of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET*	*Percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET*
2001	182,400	9.9
2002	188,400	10.0
2003	183,500	9.5
2004	189,800	9.6
2005	213,700	10.7
2006	209,700	10.4
2007	189,500	9.4

Young People: Voluntary Organisations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what ways his Department is working with national third sector youth organisations to support the training needs of those working in the third sector to achieve the ambitions set out in Aiming High and the Children's Plan. [247185]

Beverley Hughes: Through the current youth workforce reform programme, specific work is underway to identify and meet the training priorities for the third sector so that it can play a full role in the delivery of integrated services for young people. This work is currently examining how these priorities could be met locally by new or existing training and development routes and with new Government investment. Feasibility studies on an accreditation system to accredit existing and prior experience, and the delivery of training resources to support managers in identifying workforce needs for the third sector are also being undertaken. Leaders and managers in the third sector will also have access to a leadership and management programme designed to train up to 5,000 strategic leaders and managers from across young people's services over the next three years, starting this year. In addition the DCSF has recently created the Youth Sector Development Fund, which is designed to promote and support growth and build capacity within third sector organisations, particularly those working with the most vulnerable young people, including supporting the development needs of staff.

Outdoor Education

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the extent to which teacher training courses facilitates the use of fieldwork as a teaching method in schools; [247955]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve the confidence of *(a)* science teachers and *(b)* geography teachers in using fieldwork; [247956]

(3) if his Department will commission research to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the state of fieldwork in secondary science education for 14 to 19-year-olds. [247957]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not made a formal assessment of the benefits of fieldwork and out-of-classroom activity. However, there is a body of

research that demonstrates the value of learning outside the classroom to which the Department has contributed; key reports can be found at:

www.lotc.org.uk/resources/research

Ofsted's report "Learning outside the classroom: how far should you go?" was published on 2 October 2008. A key finding is

"When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development."

To support and develop teachers in using fieldwork as high quality learning experiences, a network of science learning centres provides a range of continuing professional development opportunities throughout the year. These cover chemistry, physics and biology and all key stages of the science curriculum.

Through the Government funded Action Plan for Geography, the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Association have developed online resources and guidance. These are available at:

http://www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/

and include a virtual fieldwork and local learning centre to help teachers make the most of geography in their local areas. The website contains expert advice on embedding fieldwork in the curriculum.

The Department has made no assessment of whether the encouragement of fieldwork as a teaching method is adequately supported by teacher training courses. However, the current standards for the award of qualified teacher status (QTS) set out what trainee teachers must demonstrate before they can be recommended for the award. QTS Standard Q30 requires that all trainees demonstrate that they can

"establish a purposeful and safe learning environment conducive to learning and identify opportunities for learners to learn in out-of-school contexts".

Training and Development Agency for Schools guidance to this standard states that

"trainees should be able to identify opportunities for children and young people to learn in the school grounds and in out-of-school contexts such as museums, theatres, field centres and work settings".

All initial teacher training provision is inspected by Ofsted to ensure that training is designed and delivered to enable every trainee to meet all of the QTS standards, including standard Q30 that relates to learning outside of the classroom.

Through the manifesto for learning outside the classroom, DCSF is supporting "Teaching Outside the Classroom" at:

www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com

which facilitates placements for trainee teachers in settings such as museums, city farms and field study centres.

The Government have no plans to commission research to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the state of fieldwork in secondary science education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 12 January 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

BBC World Service

Mr. Hands: Let me begin by clearing up the first point. I did not in any way suggest that the Government intervene in editorial comment; it was more that they might intervene to secure the ability to broadcast, to help with infrastructure and to extend the BBC Russian service.

On the second point, the e-mail that I received was a way of illustrating the problems that one will have with the television service as opposed to the radio service if one is not able to gain access to the country. I was not in any way suggesting that the e-mail represented the sole view about the BBC Russian service.

[Official Report, 16 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 22WH.]

Letter of correction from Bill Rammell:

An error has been identified in the answer given to the hon. Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) on 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 22WH. The full answer given was as follows:

Bill Rammell: ...He asked me several other detailed questions, including whether the advertising process for the director of the World Service will be open, and open to external candidates. I can reassure the hon. Gentleman that, on both points, they will.

[Official Report, 16 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 22WH.]

I understand that on the 23 December the BBC World Service decided to open the recruitment process up to external candidates. However, at the time of the debate this was not the case. The correct answer should have been:

Bill Rammell: ...He asked me several other detailed questions, including whether the advertising process for the director of the World Service will be open, and open to external candidates. The recruitment will be an open process but the position is open to internal candidates only.

I apologise for any confusion this has caused.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 13 January 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children obtained five GCSEs at grades A* to C including English and mathematics in schools *(a)* with fewer than 10 per cent., *(b)* with more than 20 per cent. and *(c)* with more than 50 per cent. free school meals pupils in the last three years. [240610]

[Official Report, 11 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 277W.]

Letter of correction from Jim Knight:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 11 December 2008. Unfortunately, there were errors in the figures provided for both years because of a common arithmetic error. The result was that the errors *a)* underestimated the performance of high FSM schools by a considerable amount (incorrectly 13 per cent. rather than 31 per cent.) and *b)* suggested a decline for the high FSM schools, which was really an increase (incorrectly from 14 per cent. to 13 per cent., rather than from 27 per cent. to 31 per cent.).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Flood Control: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood defences in each of the last five years. [233933]

[Official Report, 12 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 1228W.]

Letter of correction from Huw Irranca-Davies:

An error has been identified in the table provided in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Tim Farron) on 12 November 2008. The sums listed for the financial years 2007-08, 2006-07 and 2004-05 were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* DEFRA provides funding to operating authorities for flood defences from the allocation of funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. Over the past five financial years this allocation totalled:

Financial year	*DEFRA funding (£ million)*
2007-08	507.5
2006-07	506.0
2005-06	514.8
2004-05	415.4
2003-04	135.5

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 14 January 2009

HEALTH

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of staff *(a)* absence and *(b)* sickness absence was in (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; what the target rates set for his Department are in each case; and if he will make a statement. [238929]

[Official Report, 26 November 2008, Vol. 483, c. 2058W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Bradshaw:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne) on 26 November 2008. I am sorry that the figure for average working days lost in PASA in 2005 was incorrect. The answer said that this figure was 15.5 and the correct figure is 5.5. The correct answer is as follows:

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on average working days lost (AWDL) per member of staff due to sickness absence in the Department of Health and its agencies is presented in the following table:

	Coverage	*AWDL*
2007-08 financial year	Core Department	5.3
2007-08 financial year	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)	6.9
2007-08 financial year	NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA)	4.6
2006-07 financial year	Core Department	6.5
2006-07 financial year	MHRA	6.6
2006-07 financial year	PASA	5.5
2005 calendar year	Core Department only	7.0
2005 calendar year	MHRA	2.9
2005 calendar year	PASA	5.5
2004 calendar year	Department and its agencies	3.8
2003 calendar year	Department and its agencies	5.4
2002 calendar year	Department and its agencies	4.7
2001 calendar year	Department and its agencies	6.8
2000 calendar year	Department and its agencies	5.5
1999 calendar year	Department and its agencies	6.6
1998 calendar year	Department and its agencies	7.3

The change in the figures from calendar years to financial year between 2005 and 2006-07 reflects a change in the annual period covered by the reports. The change between 2004 and 2005 from the Department and its agencies together to the Department and its agencies separately reflects a change in the level of aggregation of information in reporting.

The Department does not report on the rates of other types of absence or set formal targets for rates of absence.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16 to 18 year olds have received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [233164]

[Official Report, 10 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 895W.]

Letter of correction from Jim Knight:

An error has been identified in the written answer to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 10 November 2008. I am writing to clarify information given in the written response.

A caveat was given in table 1 stating:

"Learners who participate in more full-time education and E2E/Programme Led Apprenticeships will appear twice in these figures and may have transferred from one scheme to another during the year".

The correct caveat is given with the table as follows:

Table 1: Learners in receipt of EMA in England since 2001 '

	Number
2001/02	114,254
2002/03	124,351
2003/04	126,871
2004/05	297,567
2005/06	430,327
2006/07[1]	528,403
2007/08[1]	560,045

[1] Young people who have claimed EMA whilst on an E2E programme and then progressed in the same year to a school sixth form or a college course and were still eligible for EMA after income assessment will be counted twice in the yearly figures.

A copy of the final PQ will be place in the House Library.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 21 January 2009

TREASURY

Tax Credit: Telephone Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls have been received by the hon. Members' tax credit helpline in each month since it was established. [241465]

[Official Report, 10 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 199-200W.]

Letter of correction from Angela Eagle:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 10 December 2008. The figures given in the table were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Angela Eagle: For the number of calls answered each month by the Tax Credit Office MP Hotline up to and including May 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that the then Paymaster-General, my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo) gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 419W.

The information requested for the period June 2007 to November 2008 is provided in the following table.

	Number of calls to Tax Credit Office MP Hotline
2007	
June	1,355
July	1,081
August	989
September	1,170
October	1,419
November	1,249
December	898
2008	
January	950
February	1,039
March	800
April	966
May	1,042
June	1,173
July	1,101
August	848
September	1,025
October	1,127
November	911

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Jenny Watson

Mr. Purchase: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for how many days a year Ms Jenny Watson is contracted to work for the Audit Commission; and what remuneration she receives for that work. [246858]

[Official Report, 19 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 1078W.]

Letter of correction from John Healey:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Wolverhampton, North-East (Mr. Purchase) on 19 January 2008. The reference to the average amount of time that board members devote to work for the Audit Commission was incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

John Healey: Ms Jenny Watson is not a contractor working for the Audit Commission, but holds office as a member of the Audit Commission having been appointed by the Secretary of State. There are no specific requirements of board members as to the time they should devote to work for the Audit Commission but there is an expectation that this will, on average, equate to three days per month during the course of the year. Ms Jenny Watson receives remuneration of £14,146 per annum, which is the amount specified by the Secretary of State for payment to the majority of the Audit Commission board members.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 22 January 2009

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of staff of his Department and its agencies did not receive the maximum bonus possible under a bonus scheme applying to them in the last two years. [217417]

[Official Report, 22 July 2008, Vol. 479, c. 991W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Ivan Lewis:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 22 July 2008. The entry for the year 2007-08 was incorrect. The correct answer is as follows:

Gillian Merron: The Department for International Development (DFID) operates two separate bonus schemes.

The first is an established bonus scheme for members of the senior civil service (SCS). Bonuses are awarded at three different levels (high, medium or no bonus award). The proportion of SCS members who did not receive the high level (or maximum) bonus in each of the last two years was as follows:

	SCS staff not receiving a maximum bonus	
	Number	*Percentage*
2006-07	67 out of 87	77
2007-08	72 out of 96	75

The second performance bonus scheme is for home civil service staff (HCS) below the SCS. The HCS bonus scheme was introduced under the 2007 pay deal for HCS staff and will come into effect in the 2008-09 performance appraisal year.